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Health campaigners staged a vigil outside Charing Cross Hospital last week to celebrate the contribution made to the NHS by staff from around the world. Members of the Save Our Hospitals campaign gathered in Hammersmith on February 20 to pay tribute to foreign doctors and nurses. The group fears that Charing Cross will be downgraded under NHS cuts and campaigners used the event as an opportunity to show solidarity with staff. One woman, pictured, held a placard that read: "Hands off our NHS staff, wherever they come from".



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10



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'Fight £2.8m blow to schools funding'

Parents are urged to attend meeting about government's controversial plans

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

HUNDREDS of parents are being urged to fight plans for a shake-up of school funding ahead of a major public meeting at Hammersmith Town Hall.

Council leaders have organised the event in a bid to generate momentum behind a campaign to reverse the government's controversial proposals.

It is feared that schools in Hammersmith and Fulham will be among the hardest hit by the new funding formula, with teachers bracing themselves for losses of up to £2.8 million.

The policy is designed to redistribute funding for schools so that money is spread more evenly across the country.

But teachers have warned that millions of pounds could be sucked out of the borough's schools, leading to job cuts and even closures.

Hammersmith and Fulham

council is urging local parents and teachers to show their support by attending an "urgent" public meeting tonight (Tuesday).

It comes as the capital's education chiefs warn of "disastrous" impacts on classroom standards in London if the plans are put in place.

Cllr Sue Fennimore, Hammersmith and Fulham council's cabinet member for social inclusion, said: "These cuts are a real danger to children's education."

"School budgets are already stretched and any more cuts could have a massive impact."

"It's not fair for children to lose out because the government is not investing enough in education – and it's not fair on the teachers and their fantastic schools."

The council estimates that Ark Burlington Danes Academy, Phoenix High School, Sacred Heart High School and the London Oratory School will be among the borough's secondary schools most se-

riously affected by the changes. Primary schools that could suffer include Brackenbury, Wormholt Park, Holy Cross, Wendell Park, Addison, Larmenier and Sacred Heart, and Melcombe.

Peter Haylock, chairman of the Hammersmith and Fulham schools forum, said: "If schools' budgets are cut at a time when costs are increasing significantly, it can only have a negative effect on the education that we are able to deliver."

"We will not be able to employ the number of high-quality teachers and leaders that we need to be able to maintain standards."

An analysis by the National Union of Teachers named Hammersmith and Fulham as one of the areas hardest hit by funding cuts in recent years.

The NUT research suggested schools in the borough were almost £400 worse off per pupil than before the 2015 general election.

MPs warned last week that the

budget cuts could also be reflected across the capital.

Conservative MP Bob Neill, chairman of the all-party parliamentary group for London, said: "London Councils" figures suggest that 1,536 schools in London will see a reduction if the formula goes ahead, 70 per cent of the total number of schools.

"This would have a disastrous impact on education standards in the capital."

The Department for Education has said the schools budget has been protected in recent years and that it now totals more than £40 billion – the highest on record.

A spokesman said: "The government's fairer-funding proposals will ensure that areas with the highest need attract the most funding and end the historic unfairness in the system."

The public meeting takes place at Hammersmith Town Hall tonight at 7pm.

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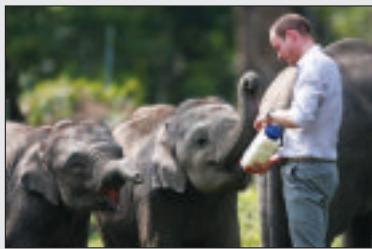
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Prince William, the elephants' friend – page 14



A little girl from Fulham has taken her first steps on the road to recovery after a life-changing spinal operation. Caya Newman, nine, is up on her feet for the first time after undergoing the complex surgery in January.

The schoolgirl, who suffers from spastic diplegia, has already defied doctors' expectations after walking 15 steps unaided.

Her remarkable recovery is partly thanks to the local community, who have helped to raise tens of thousands of pounds to cover the cost of the op and subsequent physiotherapy. Staff at the Il Pagliaccio Italian restaurant were the latest to chip in last week, handing over a cheque for £2,010 after organising a fundraising pizza party for local children. Caya is pictured, centre, at the restaurant with Il Pagliaccio staff, and parents and teachers from Sulivan Primary School and the Fulham Bilingual School.

Meet the man who'll 'rescue you from mental quicksand'

Well dream of the magic cure, the five-minute fix that can rid us of our worst fears. But does it really exist?

According to Christopher Paul Jones, 'the Breakthrough Expert', who claims he can cure complex phobias in a single session, the answer is yes.

"I used to be ruled by anxieties and stress. I used to have fear of flying, fear of public speaking," he says.

"For years I let my fears stop me advancing in my career. They even got in the way of my personal life."

But Christopher was able to conquer his personal demons – eventually strapping himself to the outside of a helicopter for a sightseeing tour of the Pyrenees.

Now he is on a one-man mission to help others who are paral-



Christopher Paul Jones

ysed by phobias that obstruct their everyday lives.

Based in Harley Street, Westminster, Christopher is building a growing reputation for his unorthodox forms of treatment.

Blending conventional psychology with experimental therapy techniques, he claims to be able to cut through a client's personal fears and help them overcome crippling terror.

Nervous flyers are among his most common visitors – but Christopher says the cure is not rocket science.

"Very often it's not related to a fear of flying at all. It can be a fear of control, it can be of fear of letting go," he explains.

"But the unconscious mind has made those two the same. And when you untangle one, often the other one will start to untangle and fall away."

Christopher featured in a recent BBC Two documentary, *Skies Above Britain*, in which he seemingly resolved a young client's flying phobia after only one meeting.

He has also worked with actors, models and musicians to

cure every kind of phobia – from handling spiders to delivering a presentation.

Christopher says the secret is his own "integrated change system", which uses targeted questions and physical techniques to tease out the hidden structures that can trap us in "mental quicksand".

Scrambling the emotional links that connect events or places with phobias is also key, he says – and far more effective than simply "facing your fears".

Referred to by one client as "the guy who will blow your mind and radically change your life", Christopher also believes that mastering the art of breathing can help to control the wandering mind.

"When you're stressed, when you're anxious, very often what you're doing is breathing in your chest," he explains.

"If you place your awareness in your stomach and as you breathe let your stomach fill with air, hold for a few seconds and then breathe out, and continue to do that very quickly, you can become relaxed, calmer and much more centred."

The trick is perfect, he says, for tackling the panic of the morning commute – especially in busy London.

"If you want to relax and take off all that worry, just broaden your awareness," he says.

"Look straight ahead and allow your awareness to take in everything around you. All that internal noise and worry will start to dissipate and eventually disappear."

Christopher Paul Jones will be delivering a one-day flying phobia course at the Holiday Inn in Mayfair on April 22. For more information, visit christopherpauljones.net.

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Sky-high rates rise is kick in teeth – Khan

FROM PAGE 1

for pubs, retailers, restaurants, shops, theatres and clubs.

"This would damage London's high streets as well as the city's appeal as a destination for international visitors and investors," said the mayor's spokesman.

"It is believed the rise will have a particularly damaging impact on independent businesses in areas such as Chinatown and the West End."

The organisations are urging the Chancellor to introduce measures to mitigate the impact of the rises by introducing policies to help businesses generate more income and to commit to a review of business taxes, including business rates.

"This would include raising the current national £12,000 rateable value threshold, below which small businesses receive 100 per cent business-rates relief, to a more realistic level in London to mitigate the impact of the revaluation on small and medium-sized businesses," said the spokesman.

Mr Khan said: "I was elected on a mandate of being London's most pro-business mayor ever and I am genuinely shocked that the government's actions will damage the prospects of so many businesses in the capital, putting many at risk of closure.

"The very character of our local high streets is under threat – London's businesses have been warning about the damaging effect of this skewed and unfair revaluation for months and yet the government blunders on.

"This is the last thing that London businesses need and will serve as a kick in the teeth for tens of thousands of companies in the capital who are still digesting the recent vote to leave the European Union.

"Alongside the uncertainty created by Brexit, this will serve as a double whammy for business in London."

"This skewed system is because central government fixes the total amount of business rates to be collected – and with London generating more, the rest of the country is asked for less.

"This unfair and damaging situation could be addressed if the government were to grant further devolution to London and other cities."

At the last revaluation in 2010 no business could face an increase of more than 12.5 per cent in the first year – the current government has set the maximum increase from April 2017 at 42 per cent, more than three times higher.

Recent research from the Federation of Small Business has revealed that the average business in the capital with fewer than 10 employees will be paying £17,000 in business rates from April – after receiving less than six months' notice from government about the increase.

Three quarters of London businesses who responded to the FSB survey said that business rates was the single biggest issue affecting their business.

Some 27 per cent said they



Mayor Sadiq Khan says the massive rise in business rates will put many of the capital's firms at risk of closure

are considering closing for good.

It is also estimated that nearly 7,000 larger businesses – mainly retailers, restaurants and licensed premises linked to the night-time economy will see their business-rates bills rise by almost 50 per cent on April 1," said the mayor's spokesman.

"The business-rates contribution from ratepayers on Oxford Street, Regent Street and Bond Street will increase from £160 million to nearly £240 million overnight.

"According to government estimates, London as a whole will register an 11 per cent increase in its tax bill while everywhere else will experience a drop, including 10 per cent in the North West and Yorkshire and Humberside, and 11 per cent in the North East."

Business rates are a property tax set by the government based on the assumed annual rental value on the open market of business properties as estimated by the national Valuation Office.

London is the only English region where the total sum collected in business rates will increase following the revaluation.

Sir Peter Rogers, chairman at New West End Company, said: "Businesses across London now find themselves on the precipice of a monumentally increased tax burden, amidst a climate already hampered by economic uncertainty.

"West End stores are facing an average 80 per cent increase in rates since the last revaluation, even though sales have only risen by 30 per cent in the same period.

"While last year's concession on transitional relief measures will offer some relief, businesses will still face significant hikes of 44 per cent in the first year, with further increases thereafter.

"The government can no longer ignore the widespread pleas from businesses of all sizes across the nation for reform of the current system. A wholesale review is critical to prevent future damage to businesses and the UK economy in turn."

Colin Stanbridge, chief executive of London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said: "We were worried about the impact an increase in business rates might have even before

we saw the revaluations. Now, with the changes about to hit, we call on the government to urgently review them.

"They will have a far-reaching impact, across the capital and across sectors. Many will struggle to invest in staff, equipment, training or other resources.

"This is not a case of wanting more for London for the sake of it. This is a very real concern about the future of London businesses."

Sue Terpilowski, FSB London policy chairman, said: "Business rates is the greatest concern for our members in London.

"It is a tax on growth and a tax on the ability to create jobs and prosperity."

Clr Peter John, London Councils' executive member for business, skills and Brexit, said: "The capital's businesses large and small are the lifeblood of the boroughs, yet these disproportionate rises threaten to put many out of business.

"If we are to protect businesses, particularly following the Brexit vote, the government must rethink these hikes."

Ros Morgan, chief executive of Heart of London Business Alliance, said: "As the voice for businesses across Piccadilly, Leicester Square and St James's – the heart of London – we know the detrimental impact of large business-rates rises on the DNA of the West End.

"The proposed hike in rates threatens London's world-class destination status for visitors and future inward investment from international businesses.

"Our area celebrates some of the most iconic visitor attractions in the UK, which welcome more than 400 million visitors annually to enjoy the diverse offering across cultural, retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.

"SMEs' and independents' contribution is significant and the proposed hike would severely undermine London's future prosperity.

"Following a 47 per cent increase in international tax-free spend across the city in January, London is undoubtedly a driving force behind the UK's tourist economy – which is why it is critical government takes the right action in the short and long term to support these businesses in light of the challenges ahead."

Take part in national Swimathon and make big splash for charity

WESTMINSTER sports chiefs are urging residents to support the Marie Curie charity by joining the 30th nationwide Swimathon.

Marshall Street Leisure Centre, Porchester Centre, Queen Mother Sports Centre, Jubilee Sports Centre and Seymour Leisure Centre are taking part in the world's biggest charity swim to raise money for Marie Curie.

The Swimathon will take place over the weekend of April 7 to 9 at each of the Westminster City Council centres, which are managed by Everyone Active.

Over the last 29 years, more than half a million people across the UK have taken part in the world's biggest charity swim event, which has raised more than £46 million for good causes.

Participants have the option to swim 1.5k, 2.5k or 5k, as an individual or as part of a team.

Marie Curie is the UK's leading charity for people with terminal illnesses. Its nurses



and hospices deliver round-the-clock care, vital emotional support, and expert guidance allowing people living with a terminal illness and their families to make the most of the time they have together.

"It's always fantastic to see how many people turn up for the annual national Swimathon," said Everyone Active contract manager Duncan Cogger.

"Swimming is such a great form of low-impact cardiovascular exercise, with many health benefits, and the swimathon offers a challenge for every level of swimmer."

"Not only is this a great way to support Marie Curie but it may even inspire you to take up swimming more regularly."

For more details and to sign up, visit everyoneactive.com/event/swimathon-2017.

Residents have never had it so good – council

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

crease in the Westminster element of council tax for 2017-18, as well as a two per cent increase for adult social-care services that will raise £1 million for the most vulnerable residents.

"With these modest increases, and subject to approval by full council, the Westminster element of council tax band D would increase from the current £392.81 to a proposed £408.12 per year from April 1 – equivalent to around 30p per week."

"The Greater London Authority precept will then be added to this Westminster element to generate the final amount that will appear in people's council-tax bills."

Clr Tim Mitchell, cabinet member for finance, property and corporate services, said: "Despite the climate of austerity and increasing demand on our services, with our track record of continued leadership and strong management action I am confident that we will continue delivering the excellent services with low taxes that our residents, quite rightly, expect."

"While we will continue to have tough budget decisions ahead and having already made £120 million of savings over the last three years, we will be spending £800 million this year on much-valued local services, from libraries to leisure centres, street cleaning and our green spaces as well as the wraparound support for our most vulnerable residents and our children's services that were rated outstanding at their last inspection."

"But with increasing demands and some uncertain times ahead, that's why we are proposing a modest increase in the Westminster element of council tax, equivalent to 30p per week."

"We will continue to do all we can to make sure we make every penny of council taxpayers' money count and maintain our proud position as having the lowest band-D council tax in the country with services that set standards for others to follow."

Capital's salute to Stephen Hawking

BY GEOFF BAKER
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PROFESSOR Stephen Hawking is to receive the Honorary Freedom of the City of London – and win the right to drive sheep across London Bridge.

Widely regarded as amongst the most distinguished and prolific scientists of his generation, Professor Hawking, who celebrated his 75th birthday last month, will be presented with the City of London Corporation's highest award at a ceremony at Guildhall on March 6 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to theoretical physics and cosmology.

There are a number of rights traditionally associated with freemen – the right to drive sheep and cattle over London Bridge; to carry a naked sword in public; or that if the City of London Police finds a freeman drunk and incapable, they will bundle him or her into a taxi and send them home rather than throw them into a cell.

While sheep have occasionally been driven over London Bridge on special occasions, the rest of these "privileges" are now effec-



Professor Stephen Hawking

tively symbolic. Although the right to herd sheep and cattle across London's four bridges technically no longer applies, as there are no livestock markets in the City, this right has been exercised periodically in modern times:

In 1999 Jef Smith, a freeman of London walked two sheep over Tower Bridge to bring attention to the rights of older citizens. In 2006 a flock of about thirty sheep was driven across the Millennium Bridge to mark the start of London Architecture Week and in 2008, the then Lord Mayor of London, David Lewis, and some 500 freemen drove a flock of Romney ewes in relay across London Bridge to raise funds for the Lord Mayor's charities.

During the ceremony honouring Professor Hawking, who pioneered the smallpox vaccine.

Dr Peter Kane, the Chamberlain of London, will pay tribute to his outstanding achievements, before presenting him with his illuminated Freedom scroll in an inscribed casket.

Professor Hawking will deliver a keynote speech to guests, who will include Lord Mayor Andrew Parmley, the City's Aldermen and the Court of Common Council, before answering questions submitted by students from the City's schools and Academies.

Professor Hawking said: "I am very pleased to have been granted the Honorary Freedom of the City of London and I would like to thank Lord Mayor Andrew Parmley and the City of London Corporation for this special award. I am looking forward to the ceremony in March, and to learning more about the unique traditions behind the granting of this honour."

Historical recipients of the Honorary Freedom of the City of London include William Pitt the Elder, Winston Churchill, Florence Nightingale, Robert Baden-Powell, Nelson Mandela, the Queen Mother, and the scientist Edward Jenner, who pioneered the smallpox vaccine.

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Nightclub robber jailed

A MAN who snatched a £4,000 necklace off a woman in a West End nightclub during a violent robbery has been sent to prison.

Jordan James Kearney, 29, of Dulverton Drive, Milton Keynes, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, suspended for two years, at Southwark Crown Court.

Kearney pleaded guilty to robbery and he was also ordered to carry out 100 hours of community service and to pay a victim surcharge of £140.

On December 21st last year, a woman was with her boyfriend on the dance floor at a nightclub in Rupert Street, W1.

"Just before two in the morning, the male victim took his £4,000 gold necklace off and placed it around his girlfriend's neck," said a Met spokesman.

"He then went to walk off the dance floor but his girlfriend grabbed his hand and told him a man in a white T-shirt had stolen the necklace by yanking it off her neck. The couple then went to the venue's security to report it and the police were called.

"Officers attended and viewed the nightclub's CCTV which clearly showed Kearney grab the necklace off the woman's neck. Before police approached Kearney, he handed the stolen necklace into security. He then approached the male victim and claimed that he helped get the property back."

Detective Constable Richard Kidd, the investigating officer from Westminster's Major Crime Unit, said: "This was a nasty crime that left both victims very distressed. I am pleased that the victim was reunited with his property. Luckily, neither victim was seriously injured in the robbery."

£22,000 fine for fly-tipping

A CITY of London business has been forced to pay out nearly £22,000 for fly-tipping more than 40 bags of rubbish and cardboard on Vine Street.

Commenting on the fine, City chiefs warned that rubbish-dumping "will not be tolerated".

The City of London Corporation prosecuted Empire Inc Limited, of 37 Jewry Street, EC3, under Section 33 (1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The firm was fined for dumping on three separate occasions dating back to November 2015. Empire was fined £20,000 with £1,756 costs.

No-one appeared on behalf of the company and there was no response to the summons.

Wendy Mead, Chairman of the City of London Corporation's Environment Committee said: "We will not tolerate fly-tipping on City streets.

"Our job is to ensure that the Square Mile is kept clean and safe for businesses to operate, residents to live and visitors to enjoy. City workers and residents rightly expect the street scene to be of a very high standard and we will always prosecute fly-tippers."

A Corporation spokesman added: "The City is committed to maintaining London's position as the world's leading financial services centre."

Geoff Baker



ONDON, we have a problem. Or we soon will do and it concerns President Trump.

Whenever the President wants to go out for a ride he does it in a huge armoured car that is nicknamed "The Beast" and is codenamed "Stagecoach" by his Secret Service agents.

Stagecoach is not your average Fiat Cinquecento. As befits a man of the President's physical and political stature, it is somewhat bigger than that.

Indeed the unique Cadillac, which cost more than £1 million, is an armoured car without rival.

According to reports, it features 8-inch-thick doors, with no keyholes; the way to open the passenger doors on the limousine is known only to the Secret Service. It has 5-inch-thick bulletproof glass and only the driver's window opens. It also has run-flat tyres, and an interior which is 100 per cent sealed to protect the President in the event of a chemical attack. It also boasts rocket-propelled grenades, night vision optics, a tear gas cannon, on-board oxygen tanks, an armoured fuel tank filled with foam to prevent explosion, pump-action shotguns and two pints of blood in the president's blood type. It can also fire "multi-spectrum infrared smoke grenades" as a counter-measure to a rocket-propelled grenade attack or anti-tank missiles.

Clearly, the Secret Service did not design such a limo for any reason other than to best protect the President's safety.

So the agency must be knocked out with delight to hear that the current plans for the President's impending State Visit to London include him riding up The Mall not in his mobile nuclear bunker, but in an ancient wooden coach that my Aunt Fanny could take out with a child's catapult.

When the eight-horse-drawn Gold State Coach was commissioned in 1760 for great events of state, the magnitude of the security detail that most becomes a President was not anticipated. Therefore it was not designed to provide the quite the right sort of protection that the US Secret Service will insist upon when the President comes to town.

Ensuring the President's safety when, as is expected, he rides in the coach to Buckingham Palace with The Queen is just one of the headaches which must be developing into mind-splitting migraines for both the American and British security agencies.

At a time when the risk of an attack which would give Islamist terrorists their greatest publicity "triumph" since the outrage of 9/11 is more severe than ever, the security operation for President Trump's visit to Londoners and visitors, and work with the security teams?

don is set to become the most intense ever seen in the capital. Besides the hundreds of thousands of women who are expected to turn out in pussy hats to shriek protests at the President, there is the far more clear and present danger of some nutter attempting to take a pop at him.

Consequently, and quite rightly, a massive security clampdown can be expected.

This is expected to involve all leave being cancelled for the Met and the deployment in central London of the SAS, MI5 and MI6, the SBS on the Thames, the Special Reconnaissance Regiment in plain clothes shadowing suspected "persons of interest" and a huge campaign of "heavy vetting" which will see the security services checking the emails, texts and background of every single person who will be in the President's company during his visit, from Buckingham Palace flunkies to peers at the House of Lords.

But in addition, the security operation will involve numerous members of US agencies; including the Secret Service, the CIA, FBI, the Office of Terrorism and the National Security Agency.

Not only will the Americans insist on being armed, heavily armed, they will also want to be at least in dual control of the operation – if not in complete control – a role that usually fails to the Commissioner of the Met. With Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe retiring, the incoming Chief will not be in the most enviable position, having this unprecedented task on his or her hands so early in the new job.

But there is another problem with the President's visit. Traditionally, security operations are conducted with the Commissioner and relevant agencies working closely with the Mayor's Office.

But Sadiq Khan has spoken out against the President's visit and – to make relations with the American security possibly worse – he has strongly criticised Mr Trump when he was in the running for the White House.

Will Sadiq now stick to his principles and refuse to have anything to do with the arrangements for the visit? Will he boycott the visit and refuse to attend the state banquet at Buckingham Palace which, as Mayor of London, he would traditionally be expected to attend? Or will he dump his protests and principles and stick to his pledge that his "number one priority" is the safety of all people in the city, Londoners and visitors, and work with the security teams?

Many migraines now lie ahead for the Mayor and all involved in this visit which is destined to be anything but a trip.

Big challenge for Met's first female chief

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON'S new police chief – trained firearms sharpshooter Cressida Dick – faces the toughest challenge of any commissioner of the Met, with a wave of potential controversies ahead of her.

The first woman boss of the Met comes to the £270,000-a-year job at a time when violent crime in the capital is soaring and as mayor Sadiq Khan and police leaders are warning that budget cuts threaten to put public safety at risk.

Ms Dick, the 56-year-old one-time head of UK counter-terrorism, faces dealing with:

- rising calls from rank-and-file officers for the introduction of spit guards;
- growing calls for all officers to be armed, at least with Tasers;
- how to police the Notting Hill Carnival safely;
- a rise in knife crime that saw more than 21,000 incidents in London last year;
- fears that the force will be slashed by up to 3,000 officers;
- the increased threat of an Islamist terror attack on the capital;
- how to police the coming visit of Donald Trump and keep the President safe.

But Ms Dick, who started her career as a beat bobby in the West End of London in 1983 and left the Met in 2014 to take up a top-secret role at the Foreign Office, is said to be the perfect person to cope with the tough tasks ahead of her.

London mayor Mr Khan said: "Cressida Dick will be the first female commissioner of the Met in its 187-year history, and the most powerful police officer in the land. She has already had a long and distinguished career, and her experience and ability has shone throughout this process.

"On behalf of all Londoners, I warmly welcome Cressida to the role and I very much look forward to working with her to keep our capital safe and protected.

"The Metropolitan Police do an incredible job, working hard with enormous dedication every day to keep Londoners safe, so for me it was absolutely essential that we found the best possible person to take the Met forward over the coming years and I am confident that we have succeeded."

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said: "Cressida Dick is an exceptional leader. Cressida now takes on one of the most demanding, high-profile and important jobs in UK policing. She is absolutely the right choice to lead the Metropolitan Police."

Ms Dick, who received the specialist shoot-to-kill firearms training that qualified her to head terror alert operations in the wake of the 7/7 attacks, beat competition from three short-listed rivals – current Met counter terror chief Mark Rowley, Essex chief constable Stephen Kavanagh and Sara Thornton, head of the National Police Chiefs' Council.

Following her landmark appointment she said: "I am thrilled and humbled. This is a great responsibility and an amazing opportunity. I'm looking forward immensely to protecting and serving the people of London and working again with the fabulous women and men of the Met."

But Ms Dick becomes Met commissioner as the force faces challenges of a new round of £400 million government spending cuts which could see a reduction of thousands of officers which the mayor and experts warn would be a danger to public safety.

Commenting on fears that the Met's strength of 32,000 officers could be slashed back to under 30,000, Ken Marsh, leader of the Metropolitan Police Federation, said: "I can't see how we can protect the streets in the same way as we do now with 2,500 to 3,000 fewer cops.

"That's a huge number and that would have a massive effect on all the departments within the Met."

Mr Khan said: "As mayor, the safety and protection of our capital city and all Londoners is my number-one priority – particularly in the wake of the recent terrible attacks across Europe and elsewhere in the world. This means keeping officer numbers as high as possible with a strategic target of 32,000.

"But this is becoming increasingly difficult as the government continues to consistently underfund the Met.

"Ministers' refusal to reimburse Londoners for work already undertaken to police London as a global capital city is risking the safety of all Londoners.

"I urge MPs to join me in making the case for London in the strongest possible terms, and join me once again in calling on the government to rethink their decision not to provide the funds we need to keep London safe."

The Met has already had to find some £600 million of savings since 2010. To date, these have led to the loss of 2,800 police staff, including hundreds of police community support officers, and the closure of dozens of police stations.

Ms Dick, who is single and is reported to be nicknamed Harry Potter by some officers due to her resemblance to the young wizard when she wears her glasses, was in charge of the police operation which led to the fatal shooting of innocent Brazilian Jean Charles de Menezes in 2005.

During a hunt for four suspects of a failed suicide bombing on the London Underground, armed officers mistook Mr de Menezes for one of the terrorists and shot him while he sat in a Tube carriage at Stockwell underground station.

Officers believed he was would-be suicide bomber Hussain Osman who lived in the same block of flats as the Brazilian. When the force was later found guilty of breaching health and safety laws, the jury cleared Ms Dick of any blame.

The daughter of two Oxford dons, Ms Dick graduated from the university's Balliol College and briefly worked for an accountancy firm before joining the Met.

Ms Dick has held a variety of senior positions in the force including heading the Trident gang unit and overseeing the successful re-investigation of the Stephen Lawrence murder.

Her appointment as chief means that for the first time all three top policing jobs in the UK are held by women: the Met commissioner, the head of the National Crime Agency and the president of the National Police Chiefs' Council.



Cressida Dick



Department
for Transport

HEATHROW EXPANSION PROPOSAL

Have your say

The government has announced Heathrow as its preferred scheme for a new runway in the southeast and is holding a public consultation over the next four months.

There'll be events around Heathrow where you can come along to share your views, ask questions and learn about the package of measures to support local communities.

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Points of view

OPINION

In today's fast-paced media world, there are always a million and one stories to tell – and never enough time to tell them.

At *London Weekly News* we pride ourselves on being quickest to react to breaking news as it happens, in print and online.

But while we wrestle with the big issues of the day, we also make time to champion the people who dedicate their lives to supporting the local community. After all, it is they who make our city what it is.

Last week we paid a visit to the White Horse pub in Parsons Green – not for a lunchtime pint or seven, it should be made clear – but to meet members of the Silver Club, a social group for over 65s.

The club is run by local charity Fulham Good Neighbours and offers an opportunity for older people to reconnect with friends and build new relationships.

Sadly, many people lose touch with their social networks as they grow older – especially here in London where the population can shift so quickly.

So these groups – and the people who run them – play a vital role in improving quality of life for the most vulnerable in society.

Something as simple as a monthly lunch meeting in the company of others can make such a big difference in changing people's outlook on life.

We must never forget the tireless work that unsung heroes carry out behind closed doors on a daily basis. They are the lifeblood of our communities – and *London Weekly News* takes great pride in celebrating their remarkable work.

Library closure

I WAS pleased that you published the letter from the Friends of North Kensington Library, which lists very clearly the many reasons why the council's scheme is wrong and should never have been formulated.

I have lived in North Kensington for the past 45 years and have used the library regularly during that time, taking my children and now my grandchildren.

All of us love reading, and going regularly to that beautiful old building to choose new books has been a valuable and always enjoyable experience.

It is wholly unacceptable that the council should hand the building over to the private school next door, thereby making it no longer available to the ordinary or less privileged members of our community – of whom there are many.

The proposed new library is an eyesore and no substitute for a Grade II listed Victorian building, purpose built for the local community.

If the council must go ahead with their plan to build a new library, then the old library should be retained for community use.

I understand that it has now been granted Asset of Community Value status and, as such, it must be retained for use by the community.

Irene Lyford
North Kensington
■ RE: the North Kensington Library. Where is the consultation over the fate of the old library, this asset of community value?



of a beautiful building, inspiring fit for Oxbridge students, so that wealthy people can use it for a private prep school.

The new library building nearby will also have space for the prep school to use as well and there will no longer be a permanent, designated IT section which, in the current library, is invaluable to all in the area - regardless of their income.

Yes, this is an example of private replacing the public or the few benefitting, at the expense of everyone. There are other public sites that could be used and some have been already in the same fashion.

Fortunately, somebody has succeeded in applying to have the old building listed as an Asset of Community Value, which will slow down any planning application progress for the moment.

However, it may be only a matter of re-applying on the part of the council, for the use to be changed to another educational use - a private school.

Please help! The Big Issue founder, John A Bird, may be right in his analysis of the changing demographics of west London but this is still a much-used library, which is still heavily subscribed to by a largely existent local population, excluded from the anodyne Notting Hill film, but people living in social housing and dependant on the library's assistance to apply online for employment support or job seek daily online and claiming allowances.

They are not custodians. They are not representatives. They are not fit for public office. They ought to be debugged and then stripped of their positions.

Sebastian Peattie
Kensington

■ HERE in Ladbroke Grove, London, we have been working hard for about a year to save North Kensington Library, to little or no avail.

Our council, in spite of having plenty of money, has decided to move users out

Have your say

Email Jack Dixon
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

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in this fast-changing world.

Losing the presence of public libraries is not a progressive change.

Michael Esswood
(library dependant)

■ I'VE been a member of the Ladbroke Grove library since I was in junior school nearby in Lancaster Road in the early 1950s. In fact I've learnt far more there about literature than in actual school!

I have been petitioning for signatures alongside others from outside the library for the last six months at least, and the predominate reaction has always been one of astonishment at least, that the building is going to be taken away and given to a private fee-paying school. After all, it has been a such a hallmark of North Kensington for so many years.

Many of the people who signed have had many memories of using the library over many years. Many people spoke of their children, and even in some cases their grandchildren, being able to study there in comfort and safety.

At the very least it should be kept in the public domain, even if not as a library.

As for the new library building I agree with most residents view that it resembles a small office building totally out of character with the surrounding architecture.

Let the private school have the new building, and the council refurbish the existing one, and keep it as a library.

Mick Kasmir
Kensington

● More letters on Page 12

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Feline in focus as National Army Museum reopens

LONDON'S National Army Museum will open to the public next month after a three-year, £23.75 million redevelopment project – with new exhibits including a stuffed “saviour” cat and the story of the hero who lost his Victoria Cross for stealing a cow.

The museum, in Chelsea, has gone through a radical transformation enabling it to manage increasing visitor figures which are predicted to reach 400,000 by 2026.

The bright new building, which will open on March 30, will include more than 2,500

objects in five permanent thematic galleries, laid out over four floors – Soldier, Army, Battle, Society and Insight.

There will also be a large temporary exhibition space, a study centre, a three-room learning centre, as well as a new cafe, shop and a play cen-



Crimean Tom, saviour of the Army

tre where children aged up to seven can learn through play.

“The first gallery that visitors will enter is Soldier. This gallery draws on the abundance of individual stories contained within the National Army Museum’s collections and archive. It brings to life displays of personal, and often inspiring, objects that explore the physical and emotional experience of soldiering throughout the army’s history,” said a spokesman.

“The gallery will follow the life of a soldier from joining the Army to training and daily life, and the reality of crime and punishment, to exploring both combat and non-combat roles and finally coming home.

“Visitors can engage with a series of tests to find out if they could become a soldier and can be drilled in marching.

“Objects on display within the gallery include Crimean Tom, a cat found during the Crimean War and brought back to Britain as a pet; the Welsh flag which formed part of the memorial of a soldier who was wounded in Afghanistan in 2009 and later died in hospital; and James McGuire’s Victoria Cross, which he received for gallantry during the Indian Mutiny but lost when he was convicted of stealing his uncle’s cow.”

Crimean Tom was a feline hero which saved the British troops from starving to death. In 1855 British and French forces captured the Crimean port of Sevastopol, which had been under siege for a year. The city was starving, and so were the invading troops. There was no food to be found. But then the soldiers spotted a tom cat.

The cat was so healthy despite the carnage around it that the Brits grew curious. One day, they followed Tom among the ruins. The tabby ducked under some rubble and didn’t immediately come back.

The soldiers cleared away the debris and discovered a hidden cache of food that the Russians had squirrelled away at the beginning of the siege. Tom had survived the battle by returning again and again to the same supplies.

The cat saved everyone from starvation. When the time came to return to Britain, a soldier named William Gair took Tom with him. The cat died a year later and was stuffed as a mark of respect for its role in the war.

The Army gallery at the new-look museum charts the history of the Army as an institution. It explores its origins in the chaos of the British civil wars and its major role in the political development of the country on to its impact on global history. The gallery also looks at how the British Army tries to remain relevant through technological and social change including the change in modern recruitment posters.

Visitors will be able to explore how the Army has adapted and evolved in the face of political and popular policy, changing circumstance and innovation to remain effective and achieve its objectives.

“The international story of the British Army will be told through paintings including portraits of Oliver Cromwell and Khudadad Khan VC, the first Indian soldier to win the Victoria Cross, as well as the first official representation of black soldiers in the Army on the Regimental Colour of the West Indian Regiment,” said the spokesman.

“The Battle gallery explores the British experience of battle from the 1640s to the present day. Throughout this period, tactics evolved in the light of technological development and became a major determinant of victory in battle. However, when tactics did not keep up with the technological development such as the machine gun, the scale of casualties became horrific.”

Visitors will be able to experience some of these technological developments through interactives such as driving a tank or drumming a battle command.

“The Battle of Waterloo will be brought to life with a new multimedia interpretation of the Siborne Model that enables visitors to investigate both the model and the famous battle,” said the spokesman.

“The largest number of new acquisitions feature in the Society gallery where objects and stories are brought together to examine the Army as a cultural as well as a military force. The gallery looks at the Army’s impact on our customs, values and choices, from the toys and music we create to the way we vote, underpinned by the real experiences of both civilians and soldiers.

“Looking at the Army in fashion, fiction and journalism, and at its impact on medicine, technology and benevolence, the Army is revealed as recognisable and distant, loved and loathed. The gallery also examines moments when communities have encountered British soldiers in circumstances of conflict, natural disaster and national security.”

“The Insight gallery examines the impact the British Army has had around the world.

“No other army has seen service in so many different countries or interacted with such a huge range of peoples and cultures.”

“Intended as a regularly changing exhibition, the gallery’s opening displays look at the Army’s connection with Germany, Scotland, the Punjab, Ghana and Sudan. Communities from these areas have been involved in the creation of the gallery, sharing thoughts on their relationship with Britain, the Army and the objects within the museum’s collection, such as a Nazi car pennant and a cup from the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion.”

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| The Tabernacle, Notting Hill | 35 Powis Square | Notting Hill | W11 2AY |
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Court will close, ministry confirms

THE Ministry of Justice has confirmed that Hammersmith Magistrates' Court will be closed in a bid to streamline the legal system.

Cases will be moved to other courts across London following the closure, ministers said.

The court was earmarked for the axe when proposals were released for public consultation last year.

Despite vocal opposition from Hammersmith MP Andy Slaughter, the MoJ has approved the closure plan.

Mayor plugs electric bus routes

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AS part of his plans to cut killer air pollution, Sadiq Khan has announced that two West London bus routes will run exclusively electric buses.

From next spring 36 buses on routes C1 and 70 – which run between White City and Victoria and between South Kensington and Acton respectively – will take the total number of electric buses to 121 on top of the 2,000 hybrid electric buses.

"The new buses are part of the Mayor's hard-hitting package of proposed transport measures to cut toxic air pollution, including introducing a £10 'T-charge' for the most polluting vehicles and expanding the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), as well as bringing forward the ULEZ start date," said the Mayor of London's spokesman.

"It is estimated that long-term exposure to air pollution is responsible for the premature deaths of more than 9,000 Londoners every year. Electric buses produce no exhaust pipe emissions and are a more comfortable ride for passengers due to less noise and fewer vibrations."



London Mayor Sadiq Khan says two West London bus routes will feature only electric vehicles

Mr Khan said: "More than half of London's toxic air pollution is caused by road transport, and our oldest buses are one of the biggest contributors to harmful NOx emissions in central London.

"These new electric buses will eradicate harmful emissions and will have a significant impact on the quality of our air. And this is only the

beginning – by 2018 we will stop buying diesel-only double-deck buses completely.

"I want London to become a world leader in hydrogen and electric bus technology and I hope other cities around the world will join me in sending the message that only the cleanest technologies are welcome where we live and work."

TfL's Managing Director of Surface Transport, Leon Daniels, said: "We're delighted to be working to deliver greener buses for this city. They will help improve air quality and offer a better journey experience for customers. This is a momentous time as we help deliver the Mayor's vision for cleaner, safer transport network."

In 2016, the 507 and 521 became central London's first fully-electric routes, part of the Mayor's commitment to have 300 zero-emission single-deck buses serving the centre of London by 2020.

As part of his package of measures,

the Mayor is ensuring TfL leads by example with a comprehensive plan to transform the capital's bus fleet, including:

- Making sure all double-decker buses operating in the central Ultra Low Emission Zone comply a year earlier by 2019, meaning each of the 3,100 double-deck buses operating in the zone will be Euro VI hybrid.

- Expanding the ULEZ retrofit programme to up to 3,000 buses outside the central zone by 2020 (up from 800) and to 4,200 by 2021 (more than 5,000 in total).

- Procuring only hybrid or zero-emission double-decker buses from 2018.

- Creating 12 Low Emission Bus Zones, operational by 2020, that will see NOx emissions along particular routes fall by more than 80 per cent.

- More than 3,100 double-deck buses operating in London to be hybrids by 2019.



'Jail animal torturers'

BATTERSEA Dogs & Cats Home has launched a major campaign for the cruel monsters who torture and brutally kill animals to be jailed for five years, writes Geoff Baker.

The world-famous animal sanctuary is calling on the Government to make penalties for those who seriously abuse animals 10 times harsher than they are now.

"We call ourselves a nation of animal lovers but new Battersea research reveals England and Wales' six-month maximum prison sentence for cruelty offences is the lowest in the Western world," said a spokeswoman.

"The maximum sentence for even the most extreme cases of animal cruelty is currently just six months in prison – the lowest across Europe, the United States and Australia. Battersea would like to see this raised to five years."

Battersea's campaign for tougher penalties was launched in Westminster by its Chief Executive, Claire Horton.

She said: "Battersea's research into extreme animal cruelty tells us the sentences handed out are actually no punishment at all. We and many other rescue centres see shocking cases of cruelty and neglect come through our gates and there are many more that are dumped and don't even make it off the

streets. These are the dogs and cats we're speaking out for today. We looked at 100 different jurisdictions across the world and England and Wales' maximum six-month sentence is the lowest, lagging far behind countries like Ireland at five years and Germany at three years. It would be laughable if it weren't so shocking."

Battersea's spokeswoman added: "Last year a London man admitted torturing and killing nine puppies after local vets became suspicious and raised the alarm.

"He had beaten, stabbed and sprayed bleach in the puppies' eyes. The strangled body of another was found in a bin. After an RSPCA investigation, he received the maximum sentence possible – just six months in prison."

In another case, two brothers from Teesside admitted animal cruelty after they were filmed beating their pet Bulldog and throwing her down a flight of stairs. The Bulldog died from her injuries but they walked free from court with a suspended sentence of 21 weeks.

The local MP in this area, Anna Tur-

ley, was so incensed by the crime, she has raised a Bill in Parliament to increase sentences.

To back up its campaign, Battersea has released a series of images of animals that have suffered horrendous abuse, including Tyson, who was brought to the dog sanctuary in an appalling state of neglect and Hero, who had been savagely injured in illegal dog-fighting matches.

Battersea and other animal welfare charities care for such victims of wilful cruelty and neglect, with some making remarkable recoveries under the care of the charity's Veterinary team.

Claire Horton said: "For every abused dog or cat we can help, there are many more we'll never get to see.

"A few weeks in prison or walking free from court with a fine isn't enough, either as a punishment or a deterrent. It's time to stand up for such animals and bring in tougher sentences."

To join the campaign, visit www.battersea.org.uk/betheirvoice and use the hashtag #NotFunny on Twitter.



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'Choke charge' will rake in £25m

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SADIQ Khan's new "choke charge" will make up to 10,000 drivers cough up £25 million towards cleaning up the capital's killer air and making the city safer for children.

The mayor of London's toxicity T-Charge will raise the cost of driving into London by £2,500 a year for thousands of motorists. But the measures – the toughest taken by any city in the world – will boost funds for fighting the polluted air which kills more than 9,500 Londoners a year.

The mayor's £10 T-Charge will start in Central London on October 23 and is aimed at helping the 600,000 Londoners whose asthma is worsened by the toxic air and those with lung conditions for whom the city has now become a "no-go zone".

To help motorists discover whether they now face a whacking bill for driving old smokies, the mayor has launched a free online vehicle checker on the Transport for London website so that drivers can check whether their vehicle will be affected by the T-Charge.

"Up to 10,000 of the oldest, most polluting vehicles are expected every week-day to be potentially liable for the new emissions levy, which will apply to motorists who own vehicles that do not meet Euro 4 standards – typically those diesel and petrol vehicles registered before 2006," said the mayor's spokesman.

The T-Charge will operate on top of and during the same operating times as the Congestion Charge, which will operate Mondays to Fridays 7am to 6pm, so it will cost £21.50 to drive a pre-Euro 4 vehicle in the zone."

For some motorists who drive into Central London every day, that will mean an annual cost of £5,375 in charges.

But City Hall is unmoved by protests

that the extra charge could be crippling – arguing that lives are at stake.

"Air pollution in London is a public health crisis and the mayor has been forced to take hard-hitting action to tackle it head on," said the spokesman.

"Currently more than 9,000 Londoners die prematurely each year as a result of long-term exposure to air pollution – while 438 schools in the capital are in areas exceeding legal air-quality levels."

Mr Khan said: "It's staggering that we live in a city where the air is so toxic that many of our children are growing up with lung problems. If we don't make drastic changes now we won't be protecting the health of our families in the future. That is why, on the 14th anniversary of the start of the congestion charge, I've confirmed we are pressing ahead with the toughest emission standard of any major city, coming to our streets from October 23."

"Londoners overwhelmingly support my plans to introduce this £10 charge because they feel when it comes to battling pollution the time for action is now."

"The T-Charge is a vital step in tackling the dirtiest diesels before I introduce the world's first ultra low emission zone as early as 2019."

"I will continue to do everything in my power to help protect the health of Londoners and clean our filthy air. But now is the time for government to show real leadership and join me by introducing a diesel scrappage fund and bring in the new Clean Air Act we desperately need."

The mayor has received widespread backing for the new measures.

Leon Daniels, TfL's managing director of surface transport, said: "London's air-quality crisis is one of the biggest challenges we face and we are working alongside the mayor to address it. The T-Charge is a crucial part of this work and will discourage drivers of the oldest,

most polluting vehicles from driving in Central London. To help drivers we have created an online compliance checker, which can be found on the TfL website, that enables people to easily establish whether they will be affected by the charge."

The T-Charge will use a camera-based mechanism for enforcement, monitoring both diesel and petrol vehicles, and is just one of the wide range of measures the mayor is introducing to improve air quality.

The mayor has doubled funding spent on tackling air quality to £875 million over the next five years and he will be consulting on introducing the start of the Central London ULEZ in 2019, expanding the ULEZ up to the North/South Circular roads and making it London-wide for heavy vehicles as early as 2019.

He is also spending more than £300 million transforming London's bus fleet by phasing out pure double-deck diesel buses and has committed to purchase only hybrid or zero-emission double-decker buses from 2018.

Vehicle owners can use a specially created online vehicle compliance checker, on the TfL website – tfl.gov.uk/emissions-surcharge – to establish whether their vehicle is affected by the T-Charge and get advice on what action, if any, they need to take.

Steven Medway, managing director of trading environment, New West End Company, said: "The mayor continues to position air quality as central to his agenda for London, and the introduction of the T-Charge represents yet another important step towards creating a less-polluted capital."

"We are extremely supportive of any measures that accelerate a shift towards electric vehicles and help price dirty vehicles off our street. We have long championed initiatives such as these, and alongside Cross River Partnership and

Arup have launched a business-led air-quality strategy for the West End which last year helped reduce the number of waste vehicles on Bond Street by 94 per cent."

"This emissions surcharge is an important step towards the introduction of the ultra low emission zone which will help tackle the issue of air quality head on. We look forward to growing our own initiatives while continuing to work closely with the mayor's office to realise his vision for a clean-air capital."

Chief executive of Living Streets, Joe Irvin, said: "Targeting the motor traffic that is the biggest cause of air pollution is the first step in tackling the city's toxic air. Encouraging Londoners to take to their feet will not only relieve pressure on our transport system but will ensure people living and working in the city can breathe better air and enjoy better health."

Chairman of London Councils' transport and environment committee, Cllr Julian Bell, said: "London Councils welcomes positive action being taken by the mayor to address environmental issues and the introduction of this charge will play a key role in cutting the dangerous level of emissions in our city."

"We know air quality and pollution have a huge effect on health and quality of life for Londoners and that many residents are concerned about it, and we look forward to continuing to work with the mayor to take further steps to clean up the capital's air."

Dr Samantha Walker, director of research and policy at Asthma UK, said: "Two thirds of people with asthma tell us that air pollution makes their symptoms worse, putting them at an increased risk of a potentially life-threatening asthma attack. It's vital that action is taken to address this, so we welcome the mayor's plans to improve air quality in London. According to the latest figures from the Health Survey for England, toxic air affects nearly 600,000 people with asthma in London."

"There are areas all over London that regularly experience ultra-high levels of air pollution that are toxic to human health, so we cannot delay action to tackle this issue. Any delay is short-sighted, and risks condemning a generation of Londoners to poor health."

Dr Penny Woods, chief executive of the British Lung Foundation, said: "This T-Charge is an important step from the mayor of London to deter our most polluting and harmful vehicles from entering Central London. Places like Oxford Street regularly break, through pollution, World Health Organisation and EU limits on air that is safe for us to breathe."

"We've heard from people living with lung disease that the pollution levels are so high parts of the city have become a no-go zone."

"We look forward to seeing the mayor go further and launch the ultra low emission zone. However, if we are ever going to properly tackle air pollution the government must commit to a fair and ambitious new Clean Air Act."

Mr Khan has called on government to implement his new proposals for a national 'dirty' diesel scrappage fund that financially compensates motorists and enables government to get a grip on killer toxic air. Proposals include £3,500 for up to 70,000 polluting London van and minibus drivers to buy cleaner vehicles, and £2,000 credit scheme to help low-income London families scrap up to 130,000 cars.

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Mayor promises more cash for the Met

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SADIQ Khan is to increase spending on the Met by more than £500,000 a week in a bid to try avoid "rationing" of police services.

At the announcement of his first budget, the Mayor of London said that he is increasing his funding of policing by £27.8 million this year, to a total of £621.6 million..

"This additional funding follows warnings by outgoing Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Bernard Hogan-Howe, that proposed Government cuts, on top of the £600 million of savings that have already been found since 2013, with a further £400 million still to be found, may mean that the Met will have to introduce NHS-style 'rationing' of its services to Londoners and cut thousands of police officers," said the Mayor's spokesman.

"Since 2010, the government has systematically cut police budgets in London. The Home Office is now preparing plans to change the way the overall police budget is divided between different forces across the country, and there is a real risk that they will seek to move police funding away from London and give it to other forces instead.

"When they considered similar changes in late 2015, the Met stood to lose between £184 million and £700 million. Ministers are expected to make a decision on the final figure later this year."

In December 2016, the Government set out that Met Police funding next year would be £17.4 million lower than in 2015-16, because the previous Mayor, Boris Johnson, cut the police precept last year – the same year as the Mayoral election. This was despite a Government warning that if he did not provide additional funding from council tax, it would result in a future cash cut to police funding.

Speaking at the annual budget meeting of the London Assembly, Sadiq Khan said: "My first priority is



PC Tony Morgan (right) receives his award from Met Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe

Chief praises 'super cop'

A 'SUPER COP' who made more than 200 arrests in a single year has been praised for his heroic efforts to keep people safe on the streets of Hammersmith and Fulham.

Police Constable Tony Morgan was named among London's bravest officers at a top awards ceremony celebrating excellence in the fight against crime.

He received the trophy for Best Thief Taker of the Year from Met Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe after booking an incredible 213 suspects in 2016 – more than any other officer in the force.

Senior police chiefs said his efforts on the front line had led to a string of criminal convictions, with drug dealers, sex attackers, burglars and shoplifters all hauled off the streets.

PC Morgan was branded a "super cop" for his extraordinary arrest rate – and colleagues joked that he is used to bringing in bad guys.

Inspector Richard Berns, a member of the police response team in Fulham, wrote on Twitter: "So proud of PC Tony Morgan. He's outstanding and thoroughly deserves this top award. What's more impressive is he does this every year!"

PC Morgan picked up his trophy at the Met's Total Excellence in Policing Awards earlier this month after

booking a record number of suspects in 2016.

The awards ceremony celebrated London's bravest and most daring police officers, who frequently go above and beyond the call of duty to protect the public.

Among the other officers recognised for their heroic efforts were two Hillingdon bobbies who risked their lives to rescue a couple from a burning building, a neighbourhood team in Lambeth who secured sentences against hundreds of burglars, drug dealers and car thieves, and the Met's Flying Squad team who led the special investigation into the notorious Hatton Garden raid.

Met Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, who presented PC Morgan with his award, said: "These awards give us the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the courage and professionalism of our officers and police staff in saving lives, fighting crime and tackling armed and dangerous criminals."

"We all joined the Met to serve and protect Londoners and make our city safer for everyone. I am proud to lead an organisation where amazing work happens every day. Today is an opportunity for me to say thank you to all those men and women of the Met who give so much for London every day."

£15,000 raised for accident victim

MORE than £15,000 has been raised for the family of "the all-round amazing man" who was killed in a crash in Chelsea.

Tommy McEniry died on January 26 after he was involved in a collision with a car in the King's Road while riding a moped to an appointment at Guy's Hospital. The 31-year-old father of three died at the scene.

Two weeks ago a procession of fellow bikers brought parts of Putney and Fulham to a standstill as hundreds of mourners took to the roads on the day of Mr McEniry's funeral All Saints' Church in Putney.

Mr McEniry was described as a "hardworking

family man" by his partner of 11 years Jade Coulson, 27. The couple lived in Parsons Green and had three children; Harley, nine, Brooke, five, and Tommie, one.

Ms Coulson said in tribute to her partner, "Tommy was amazing. He would literally help anybody."

She added: "He was always there with a helping hand. He was a family man and did everything for his children. He was so hard-working."

"On the weekends he was the most amazing family man – he always took the children out. He will never be forgotten. He was a very good man and meant the world to us."

Following the tragedy, Ms Coulson's brother Luke set up a crowd-funding page on the Just Giving site to raise money for his family, hoping to reach a target of £15,000 by Sunday. By last Friday, 266 supporters had generously donated a grand total of £15,921.

On the appeal page, Mr Coulson wrote: "We all lost someone so special; the family man, the bike man, just an all-round amazing man. He'd do anything for everyone and anyone but now it's time to do it for him."

"He left behind an amazing family, three kids and a beautiful partner; please help the family out, just as he would help all of us."

keeping Londoners safe and that means keeping police officer numbers as high as possible. I've done everything possible to protect police numbers in this budget – the Government must now do its part too."

The Mayor also announced that he is committing an extra £250,000 for a major new anti-knife-crime campaign.

A further £122,000 will fund a new programme to tackle air quality and he also intends to fund one new musical scholarship in every London borough.

"The Mayor's budget supports Sadiq's record-breaking £3.15 billion investment to deliver affordable housing, doubling the amount spent on tackling London's poor air quality and freezing all Transport for London fares for four years," said the spokesman.

The budget covers the entire Greater London Authority Group – including Transport for London, the London Legacy Development Corporation, the Metropolitan Police Service and the London Fire Brigade.

The Mayor said: "This budget lays out my plans to ensure that all Londoners get the opportunities that our city gave to me – and to deliver on my promise to be a Mayor for all Londoners. This is a budget specifically designed to deliver

real results for Londoners and fast."

The Mayor's budget also confirmed plans announced in December to increase his policing share of council tax bills by an average of 8p a week from April 2017 in order to help maintain police officer numbers across London.

This increase will see the Mayor's share of council tax bills rise from £276 a year to £280.02 for Band D taxpayers, from April 2017.



The Mayor's budget will deliver:

■ A record-breaking £3.15 billion in new genuinely affordable homes over the next five years – the first step on the long road to fixing London's housing crisis.

■ Making commuting in London more affordable by freezing all TfL fares for four years and continuing with the new Hopper bus fare.

■ It sets out the Mayor's intention to do everything possible to maintain the strategic target of 32,000 police officers across London and to improve neighbourhood policing – in the face of significant Government cuts.

■ Ambitious plans to tackle air pollution in London – doubling the amount spent on improving air quality to £875 million.

■ Significant investment in modernising the transport infrastructure – with the biggest growth in Tube capacity that London has ever seen.

■ Additional £4 million for culture, plans for a new Skills for Londoners task-force, plans to make walking and cycling easier and safer, and a new target for a fire engine to reach any incident within 10 minutes, 90 per cent of the time.

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your letters and emails

D-Day travel

I AM Head of Travel for the travel arm of the Royal British Legion, Remembrance Travel, and I'm currently on a mission to find every single surviving D-Day veteran.

The Treasury is enabling a series of free-of-charge tours for D-Day veterans to return to Normandy and pay their respects to their fallen comrades.

The tours are being funded by the Treasury from LIBOR fines, and will enable a D-Day veteran to return with a family member and carer on a six-night tour.

The 2017 tours will take place in March, April, May and September and will give Normandy veterans - now mostly in their 90s - the chance to revisit the Normandy beaches, cemeteries and memorials.

The tours will be accompanied by a medic and a guide from the Royal British Legion.

The tours will depart from London and will include Eurotunnel from Dover to Calais, accommodation, visits to Pegasus Bridge, Juno, Sword, Gold beaches, Arromanches, and war memorials, plus visits to personally specified cemeteries too.

Sadly, there is no database of D-Day veterans so we're calling on the good will of the media and general public to spread the word.

So, if you do know a D-Day veteran, please do let them know about our free tours.

Normandy veterans wishing to benefit from this tour need to apply to our tour operator, Arena Travel on 01473 660800, or visit www.arenatravel.com/journeysofremembrance.

Nicholas Rowlands
Head of Travel,
Remembrance Travel

School funding

WE welcome the National Audit Office's report on school capital funding, which highlights how London in particular has experienced soaring demand for school places.

Our own figures show that more than 110,000 school places need to be created in London between now and 2021/22.

In this decade alone, London's pupil population will have grown by 25 per cent.

The NAO report shows that government does not fully cover the cost of creating school places.

As a result, councils are redirecting funding from other key services to ensure children's educational needs are met, but this is simply unsustainable.



The Royal British Legion's travel section is on a mission to find every single surviving D-Day veteran

It is also deeply worrying that free schools are not always being built in areas experiencing high demand for school places.

London Councils has consistently been calling for free schools to be located in areas of demand for places to ensure that in these financially straitened times, government investment in expanding school capacity does not go to waste.

Enabling London boroughs to use their knowledge and expertise to help determine where new free schools should be built would be a positive first step towards ensuring better value for money from the free school programme.

Councillor Peter John OBE
London Councils executive member with responsibility for education

European Union.

Alongside the uncertainty created by Brexit, this will serve as a double whammy for business in London.

This skewed system is because Central Government fixes the total amount of business rates to be collected - and with London generating more, the rest of the country is asked for less.

This unfair and damaging situation could be addressed if the Government were to grant further devolution to London and other cities.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

■ THE Federation of Small Businesses fears that many micro and small businesses in London will be forced out of central London due to the rising level of concern about the cost of doing business.

At a meeting with the Deputy Mayor for Business in London, Rajesh Agrawal, FSB London stated the importance of a London business ecosystem, which will only benefit from a healthy mix of businesses of all sizes.

Yet the twin policies of business rates and permitted development rights are causing significant hardship for business and raising concerns for vital tax revenues for the Government over the next five years.

The FSB London Policy Unit is lobbying the Government on the untimely and unfair business rate increases and the effect of the policy of permitted development rights. The FSB argues that:



1) The Government should create an increased inner and outer London small business rate relief threshold that reflects the specific problems faced by small businesses in the capital. In inner London we are calling for the threshold to be £20,000 RV for 100 per cent relief, tapering to £23,000. In outer London where rateable values have increased by a lower percentage, we believe the threshold for 100 per cent relief should be set at £15,000, tapering to £18,000.

2) The Government needs to reconsider its policy of relaxing the conversion of office space to residential space through permitted development rights - before it becomes a London crisis similar to housing. FSB

London advocate that a new policy be introduced whereby any current B1a office or B1c light industrial space in Greater London, which is occupied by more than 20 per cent (by floorspace in business use) cannot be converted under permitted development rights for offices/light industrial to residential.

The facts are striking. More than 147 million square metres of office floor space could potentially be lost in PDR prior approvals.

The impact is strongest in outer London where almost 20 per cent of the stock could be lost.

This figure will only go up further if small businesses are driven out of their properties by the cost of business rates, with empty

stock potentially being lost to residential forever, thus removing vital business rate revenues to the Treasury.

The business attraction of London is that it has a strong ecosystem of support services from the micro and small business community.

Business rates is the greatest concern for our members in London. It is a tax on growth and a tax on the ability to create jobs and prosperity.

We urge the Chancellor to heed the advice of business and the Mayor to reduce the burden of business rates at the Spring Budget.

Introducing small business rate relief thresholds for London would be a positive start.

FSB estimates that increasing the threshold to £15,000 in outer London and to £20,000 in inner London would cost around £100 million.

This is a comparatively small amount in the context of the £28 billion revenue derived from business rates nationwide.

Sue Terpilowski OBE
Chair, FSB London

Council energy

THIS financial year Hammersmith and Fulham council estimates that its energy bill will be £3.548 million. That is an increase of £76,900 on 2013/14 when there was a Conservative council and the energy bill was £3.472 million. That is despite all the talk of cuts, staff reduction and greater efficiency.

Windsor and Maidenhead council achieved reductions in their energy bill by making their smart metering information public on their website in real time.

The Conservatives planned to follow this example in Hammersmith and Fulham but Labour are not proceeding.

"We do not at this stage make this data public," the council's strategic finance director tells me.

At a recent council meeting the Labour councillors declared climate change "one of the greatest threats facing the world" and accepted the council's "duty" to "take actions to protect and improve the environment". Since then we have had news of them spending £250,000 a year more on printing and slashing the tree planting programme.

They can table virtue signalling motions but their record on the environment is a disgrace.

Councillor Harry Phipps
Conservative, Ravenscourt Park Ward

Trust blasted over tennis courts

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TENNIS players have criticised the Westway Trust for dumping courts in order to build a new gym.

More than 700 tennis lovers have signed a petition calling for the trust to reinstate an indoor tennis court and the squash courts at the sports centre in Ladbroke Grove, which are being removed to make way for more facilities for muscle-builders.

Angela McConville, chief executive of the trust, has come under attack for the controversial move which has infuriated tennis fans and could be an embarrassment to the trust-supporting Kensington and Chelsea Council – which has just launched a drive to promote more tennis being played in the royal borough.

Tennis players claim that up to 10,000 local young potential tennis stars will suffer as a result of losing the courts which are much in demand – and the royal borough risks losing “the next Andy Murray”.

The Westway management has come under attack from the hundreds of tennis players who oppose the loss of the courts and who have launched a petition at change.org calling on the trustees to order the courts to be put back.

In a letter to the trustees on behalf of the 700 who have signed the petition, tennis fan and local resident Michael Humphries protested: “Please do the sensible thing and pause to engage with the community so we can quickly move towards a redevelopment which sat-



Tennis players are unhappy that the Westway Trust is dumping courts in favour of a new gym

isifies all of the trust's objectives without diminishing amenity, and restores faith in the management of the trust and in the new operators of the facility.”

He added: “The proposed improvements to the Westway Sports & Fitness Centre and the Portobello Green Fitness Club are undoubtedly well-intentioned but are sadly inadequate and we risk squandering a rare chance to both upgrade the facilities in our neighbourhood and to improve participation among underrepresented groups.

“It is clearly possible to improve all of the facilities at the Westway without losing an indoor tennis court while also building a larger and better gym, if an expanded gym is even sensible given the proximity of so many similar facilities nearby.

“Improving physical activity in underrepresented groups within

our community is an obvious and sensible priority. Your communications suggest you are targeting ‘people with disabilities and mental-health problems, those on low incomes, younger and older people, women and black and minority ethnic groups’.

“However, I do not see a single concrete mention of how a larger gym at the Westway will achieve any of the aforementioned objectives. Children and youths will be negatively impacted by the loss of facilities to which they have access in favour of an adults-only gym.

“More than 10,000 nearby school-aged children will lose access to tennis and squash courts as a result of the plans. There is nothing positive in any part of these plans for them.

“The tennis programme at the Westway has the highest utilisation of any indoor community tennis ini-

tiative in the United Kingdom and is a unique feature of our neighbourhood, and your charter commits you to protect it.

“It is one of the very few non-private and financially accessible indoor facilities in London with outreach to almost 20 local schools and is a source of significant pride for the community. Your proposed actions would obviously and unnecessarily weaken that programme, remove a court from a significantly oversubscribed activity, and replace it with a product already in plentiful supply.

“The Westway estate is blessed with ample space. It would take 368 individual tennis courts to cover the 23 acres, making it ideal for those activities which do require extra room, like tennis or football. We should be embracing this compelling programme as a unique resource for the youth of our community and encouraging further investment, not impeding that effort.

“The youth tennis programme has produced a diversity of top-ranked players, including under-12 GB No 1 Andrea Pineda and 2015 world boys deaf tennis champion Esa Hayat. It is a programme the community can be truly proud of. Perhaps the next Andy Murray or Serena Williams or Andrea or Esa will come from near the centre.”

Kensington and Chelsea council has recently launched a campaign for more tennis playing in the royal borough.

In a Press release aimed at “residents who are inspired by the

achievements of Andy Murray”, the council is urging locals to take up tennis training at Holland Park and Kensington Memorial Park.

In a statement, the Westway Trust said: “Westway Trust is a small charity and part of our strategy is to encourage inactive people in our local area to take part in physical activity. We are replacing one tennis court of 10 with a fitness centre so that we can provide additional exercise opportunities that appeal to many different people, such as younger and older people, those referred by GPs and those on lower incomes.

“This is not a case of one or the other. A comprehensive tennis programme, including inclusive and specialist tennis sessions, adult and junior programmes, disability tennis programmes, performance programmes and schools and community groups tuition, will continue across nine courts. While at the same time we are projected to reach 3,000 more people who currently do not exercise, in an area with significant existing health inequalities.

“We are planning further improvements to the tennis programme, including extending the junior coaching programme to other facilities within the local area, increasing the schools coaching programme, introducing touch tennis and support for the Lawn Tennis Association’s Park Strategy.

“We are exploring options for resurfacing the remaining indoor courts and we have pledged that the outdoor courts are now £5 at all times.”

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Public could win day for Wills in trumpeting of end to ivory collections

THIS could get interesting. Backed already by at least 100,000 people, the campaigning Duke of Cambridge is set for a clash with institutions headed by his grandmother, his "uncle" and his own wife.

But, in a major test of support for the popular prince, the public may win the day for his drive for the destruction of the national hoard of ivory.

For three years Prince William has been leading the fight to have all collections of ivory made illegal and destroyed in a move that would send the strongest statement against the poaching of the planet's rapidly dwindling number of elephants and rhinos.

The prince's extreme stand against the glorification of the ivory trade first became known in 2014 when veteran primatologist Jane Goodall revealed that she had spoken to Prince William and he had told her he would "like to see all the ivory owned by Buckingham Palace destroyed".

In November William warned officials at an international conference on the illegal wildlife trade that "ivory treated as a commodity is the fuel of extinction".

He said: "Ivory is not something to be desired and when removed from an elephant it is not beautiful. So, the question is: why are we still trading it? We need governments to send a clear signal that trading in ivory is abhorrent."

Any destruction of the 1,200 items of ivory held by the Royal Collection, which is headed by the Queen, is expected to then snowball and cause the break-up of other antique pieces of ivory owned by the British Museum, whose patron is the Duke of Gloucester, and the Natural History Museum, whose patron is the Duchess of Cambridge.

Although the Natural History Museum features installations opposing the ivory trade – including a gallery of the pioneering work of wildlife photographer Brent Stirton, who has documented the black market in ivory in Africa – its collections also include at least five items of carved mammoth ivory, which could also be destroyed if public opinion backs the prince.

Although the duchess recently replaced the Queen as royal patron of the Natural History Museum, it is highly unlikely that she would represent any moves by the museum to maintain ivory displays as she and Prince Harry are one hundred per cent behind Prince William in his calls for conservation.

All three of the young royals head up the Royal Foundation, which includes among its projects United For Wildlife, described on their own website as "a long-term commitment to scale up the response to conservation crises, and to engage 15- to 30-year-olds in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade."

Although the destruction of a handful of ivory exhibits would be no great loss to the Natural History Museum, the British Museum holds significantly more ivory and it appears to be resisting any move to have all ivory made illegal.

The government is currently considering a UK-wide ban on the sale of



The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are campaigning to save the elephants

all carved ivory objects. Currently, only modern objects made after 1947 are illegal. New legislation would mean that all ivory-made objects would be illegal.

Experts have opposed this legislation, with the British Museum claiming that there was no "public benefit" in restricting the display and transport of ivory art made before 1947. Some, such as historian David Starkey, reportedly claim that a total ban would essentially be "cultural vandalism".

The ivory collection in the British Museum includes the 3,000-year-old Nimrud Ivories which were excavated in the mid-20th century, as well as the Benin Ivories which date from the 15th and 16th century.

Ivory items "are integral pieces of the collection and play an indispensable part in the museum's presentation of the history of human cultural achievement," said a spokesman for the British Museum.

The museum is keen to emphasise that it "supports any efforts to protect elephants in Africa and Asia and curb the illegal trade and export of ivory" but is "clear that this should not include antique ivory works of art. There is no public benefit in restricting the display or movement of ivory works of art made before 1947, and legislation should not extend to cover actions carried out before this date".

However, the people may have the final word as the government is now to launch a public consultation on the controversial subject.

For the second time in two months, on February 6 Parliament debated the crisis facing Africa's elephants and the need for government action to ban the internal domestic trade in ivory.

The Westminster Hall debate, which was attended by only 30 MPs, was scheduled after more than



From the Natural History Museum collection: woman's head carved in mammoth ivory, 25,000 to 30,000 years old, from Dolni Vestonice, Czech Republic

100,000 members of the public signed an e-petition launched by wildlife campaigner Ellen Cobb, calling on the government to shut down the domestic ivory market in the UK.

The vast majority of MPs who spoke, representing all the major political parties, supported the call for a ban. Many MPs including Conservatives Luke Hall, Pauline Latham and Owen Paterson, Labour's John Mann, Justin Madders, Rachael Maskell and Mary Glindon, and Scottish Nationalists Dr Lisa Cameron, Patricia Gibson and Dr Paul Monaghan, passionately pleaded for action to halt and reverse the devastation that ivory poaching is causing to individual elephants, their family groups and populations across Africa.

In particular, they pointed to as yet unfulfilled Conservative Party commitments in its 2010 and 2015



disastrous. "African elephants are declining at an alarming rate, as poachers massacre them in their tens of thousands for their ivory. Just 415,000 are thought to remain across the continent," said a Born Free spokesman.

"While international commercial trade in ivory was banned in 1989 by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the ban only applies to cross-border trade and many domestic ivory markets have remained open."

"Ivory obtained before the CITES ban is not covered, and CITES sanctioned the sale of government-owned ivory stockpiles from southern Africa to China and Japan in 1999 and again in 2008. This ivory has been slowly released into those markets ever since. These anomalies have fuelled demand for ivory products, and created 'loopholes' by which ivory can still be traded and through which illegal ivory from slaughtered elephants can be laundered into trade."

"The UK remains one of the world's biggest exporters of 'legal' ivory."

"Between 2006 and 2015 the UK declared exports of more than 25,000 ivory items, mostly for commercial purposes, around a third of which were exported to China."

"With so many elephants being killed, there's been increasing recognition that all ivory markets, both domestic and international, must be shut down."

"In June 2016 the US announced a near-total ban on ivory. Last September, the World Conservation Congress passed a motion calling for the closure of domestic ivory markets across the world, which was closely followed by a similar resolution by CITES the following month in South Africa."

"In December, China confirmed that it would close its domestic ivory market by the end of 2017."

"Most African elephant range states also support the closure of ivory markets; the 29 member countries of the African Elephant Coalition have welcomed China's decision and urged the EU and UK to take action."

Backing Prince William's calls, Mr Travers said: "We're not here to put people out of business. But no decorative ivory statue, no name stamp, no family heirloom should ever be considered more valuable than a living elephant."

"If we want to continue to share our world with these magnificent creatures, and for them to thrive for generations to come, we must persuade our government to take action, make good on its election promise, and lead the world by banning all UK trade in ivory without delay."

With the issue now to be put up for public consultation, the people's support for the conservation calls of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry will now be tested.

To support them and the Born Free campaign, sign the petition at bloodyivory.org

Geoff Baker



An artist's impression of a new royal yacht for the Queen

More pressure to give Queen the gift she really wants

WHEN the Queen and the country celebrated Her Majesty's 90th birthday last year, Downing Street was asked to reveal the nature of her present that No 10 had bought on behalf of the nation.

Despite a number of inquiries, No 10 spokesmen said they did not know and in the end the matter was dropped as David Cameron's government became occupied with the ostensibly more-pressing matter of the result of the Brexit vote and all of the kerfuffle that has caused. But now Theresa May is under pressure to give Her Majesty the gift that she would most like, for either of her 91st birthdays – her actual one on April 21 and her official one on June 17.

It is no great secret that the present which Her Majesty would most treasure is a new boat. She was visibly upset when the Blair government scrapped the Royal Yacht Britannia 20 years ago and the sight of the Queen weeping at the quayside when the great ship was decommissioned still represents to many the only time that they have seen Her Majesty cry.

In 1997 the Conservatives made a manifesto pledge to replace Britannia but have oddly failed to do so. Now Mrs May is being called on to keep her party's promise.

Lord Lexden and more than 70 Conserva-

tive MPs are leading the campaign for a new Britannia to be built.

"It is hard to think of anything that would hearten our country more than the revival of our neglected maritime traditions which a new royal yacht would symbolise," Lord Lexden claimed in a recent letter to *The Daily Telegraph*.

"Is this not a fitting moment for Mrs May to redeem that firm 20-year-old Tory pledge? Surely we have not declined so far in the intervening period that public funds are inadequate to meet the cost?

"There is overwhelming support for the original plan of making a new yacht a gift from us all to a beloved sovereign. Brexit makes an initiative by Mrs May even more appropriate. There is at the moment a deep longing for decisive practical action which shows that we are confident about our capacity to shape a new national destiny."

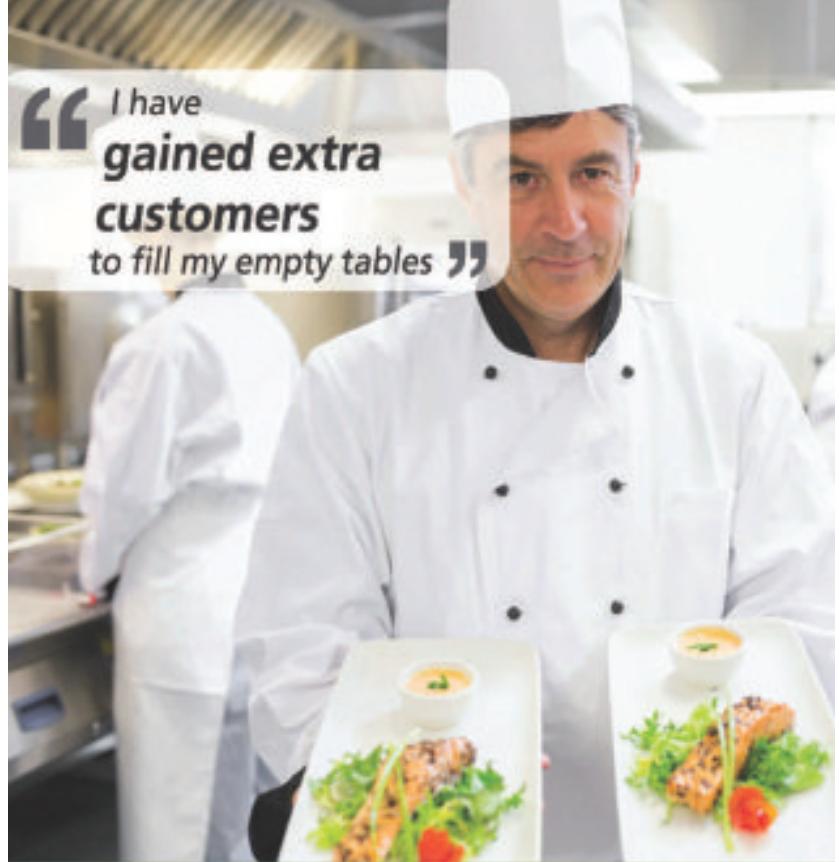
Jake Berry, the Conservative MP who is leading the Parliamentary campaign for the yacht, endorses the peer's call for Mrs May to rule the waves of support for a new ship.

He said: "The year 2017 must be the year we make a new Britannia a reality. The Commonwealth and nations separate from the continent of Europe should be the focus for the new global Britain."

And to make the point even better, why not call the new ship HMS Brexannia?



The Royal Yacht Britannia before she was decommissioned in 1997



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Capital nights

gigguide

Compiled by Jack Dixon



Strand Of Oaks

Oslo, Hackney

Tuesday February 28

Emerging indie rock project fronted by Indiana songwriter Timothy Showalter. On the scene since 2009 debut *Leave Ruin*, the band have earned radio waves for the explosive new single *Radio Kids*. Opened for the likes of Iron & Wine and Ryan Adams on the back of the well-received 2014 album *HEAL*.



Tycho

Electric Brixton, Brixton

Tuesday February 28

Watery electronic sounds pumped through the speakers by American composer and producer Scott Hansen. Ambient melodies merge with noodly guitar lines to form Tycho's unmistakable instrumentals, which came together perfectly on 2014's *Awake*. This sell-out show in Brixton follows the release of follow-up record *Epoch* last month.



The Dandy Warhols

Roundhouse, Camden

Saturday March 4

Legendary American rock band still cashing in on the international super-hit *Bohemian Like You*, now more than 15 years old. Famously feuded with rock rivals The Brian Jonestown Massacre in the film *Dig!* but have cultivated a strong following ever since. New single *Thick Girls Knock Me Out* hit record stores this month.

If you come from a large family, you've got to do anything to get attention. That is the view of Stephen K Amos, recalling the first stirrings of his funny bones as a child.

One of eight children raised by Nigerian parents in South London during the 1960s and 1970s, a young Amos leant on his talent for entertainment – not to stand out from the crowd but to fit in.

"I grew up in a time in London when there weren't many black people in my neighbourhood," he revealed in a recent interview.

"So with the school I went to, as opposed to being the odd one out for being black, I thought 'OK, I'm not going to have anyone talk to me about that, maybe I'll throw a joke in there or do a silly voice'. If anything it was maybe a defence mechanism."

The playground-jester routine was to become more than merely an icebreaker for Amos, who grew with age into the role of all-round entertainer.

He turns 50 this year but still electrifies on stage, his wide smile and warm manner enveloping the audience throughout pulsating routines.

Now a veteran of the circuit – he

Jack Dixon looks at the career of comedian

STEPHEN K AMOS



has performed at Edinburgh every year since 2003 – Amos continues to forge a path for harmless humour despite the present trend for nastiness.

His brand of soft-centred observational stand-up is a perfect fit for the Live at the Apollo bracket and

makes a decent second helping in town halls and comedy clubs across the country.

But Amos is no stranger to tough subjects. He tackled homophobia within the black community for a Channel 4 documentary, *Batty Man*, in 2007, and he ap-

peared in the BBC Two sitcom *In My Country*, which confronted cultural boundaries.

He famously 'came out' live on stage back in 2005 after being stunned by news reports of a friend who was killed in a homophobic attack in a London park, not far from his home.

"I glanced up and they showed a picture of that person, and it was somebody that I knew," he recalled in an interview with *GayTalk Tonight*.

"And that really, really incensed me to the point that I just thought, 'oh my God, in London, which I thought was a very forward-thinking, cosmopolitan city, there are still people out there who think it's OK to physically hurt somebody else, to the point of death, because of what they perceive to be their sexuality.'

"I thought 'I'm going to address this in my next show'. For me it wasn't a 'coming-out' thing."

A big hit Down Under, Amos returns to Australia for a run of shows in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Perth after bringing *World Famous* to London's Soho Theatre this month.

It will be another international outing for the globetrotting laughter master, who has also appeared in Switzerland, Austria, Denmark, Holland, Germany, Belgium, Greece and even Tasmania in the last 12 months.

And what did he find while visiting these far-off lands? People, he says. People who quite often say and do the most ridiculous things. A constant source of inspiration for Stephen K Amos' everyman stand-up.



Capital nights



CLEAR the way, I'm coming through no matter what you say. So sings Jesca Hoop on the defiant title track of her new album *Memories Are Now*. The 41-year-old has "work to be doing" – and if you're not here to help, "go find some other life to ruin".

Hoop's thick-skinned rhetoric plays out over spindly guitar strings rather than crashing chords, a trick she repeats time and again on the record – her fifth solo full-length.

Few other songwriters can so effortlessly merge the daring with the delicate, and Hoop says she is proud of the "fighting spirit" that shines through beneath the technical intricacy of the music.

It's a much more intimate sound that Hoop explores on *Memories Are Now*, working with producer Blake Mills for the first time.

He pushed her to strip away the layers, keep it as close to the live experience as possible and use one-off takes to work in a more organic way.

"It's still covered in embryonic fluid," quips Hoop in characteristically colourful language, "for lack of a better way to put it."

Born in California, Hoop moved to Los Angeles in her mid-20s.

There she was to meet an early musical mentor.

It was while working as a daytime nanny that she struck up a friendship with Tom Waits, who lent an ear to her music while she watched his kids.

The blues legend would later describe Hoop's sultry tunes as "like going swimming in a lake late at night".

Making the move to Manchester in 2008, she continued her habit of making friends with the famous – she was invited to join Peter Gabriel's *New Blood* tour as a backing singer, worked with the likes of Stewart Copeland and Willy Mason, opened for Placebo and Eels,

and was trumpeted as a hot prospect by Elbow's Guy Garvey.

While Hoop is yet to break through into the mainstream, she is clearly building a growing number of influential admirers.

It's all the product of a career that has been independently driven and self-funded from the start.

"All of my successes have been won on the grassroots level," she confesses, "with handshakes and hugs from great people who believe in me."

Identity crisis triggered by religion (in the past) and technology (in the present) is a key theme on Hoop's new album.

But she covers a great deal of ground in only 39 minutes, showcasing every edge and curve of her captivating voice.

Hoop sings of the faith that weighs heavily on her world, the imagination of the myth and the cruel nature of life and love.

On *The Lost Sky*, inspired by the tragic story of a close friend who was left in a coma after a horrific accident, she sets out to offer a voice "for when you don't have a say".

"We thought we'd lost him," she recalls. "He woke up to find himself silently divorced. This was a heartbreak for all related – and I wrote this while we were waiting for him to wake up.

"His experience drove me to explore my own relationship with abandonment. I think the cruel nature of life and love is something we can all relate to one way or the next."

Hoop is at her brilliant best on *Memories Are Now* – an album that has some of music's biggest names already on board and many more fans yet to discover.

*Jesca Hoop will perform at The Lexington in Islington on Wednesday March 29. The new album *Memories Are Now* is out now.*

Jack Dixon
previews
JESCA HOOP
at The Lexington,
Islington



Jesca Hoop
Picture: Josh Wool

Music fans and bands urging police crackdown on ticket touts

IN the fight to find a cure for cancer, £5,000 will help medical researchers a lot. So it is especially distressing for the families of those suffering from the condition to learn that ticket touts are charging up to £5,000 for seats at an Ed Sheeran show in aid of teenage cancer.

Touts are asking 66 times the original ticket price of £75 for seats at Sheeran's sold-out gig in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust at the Royal Albert Hall on March 28.

But now music fans and the bands are fighting back, with a campaign to pressure the government to mount a police crackdown on the touts – and fine them £5,000 every time they rip off the public.

Touting – or the secondary ticket market – is currently raking in more than £1 billion. And music-business leaders are determined that the practice should be stopped.

Backed by managers who look after top acts including One Direction, Mumford & Sons, Laura Marling, Keane, The Lumineers, Half Moon Run, Lucy Rose, PJ Harvey, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds,

The Arctic Monkeys, Royal Blood, Travis, Little Mix, Cheryl and Alison Moyet, the FanFair Alliance is demanding that the government gets tough on the touts.

FanFair is urging ministers to call in the cops and slap large fines on those people making huge profits at the expense of music fans, bands and charities.

"We strongly urge the government to act and order national trading standards officers to carry out a concerted and properly funded investigation of resale websites and their compliance with the Consumer Rights Act and other consumer laws, coupled with action co-ordinated with the police," said a spokesman for the pressure group.

"Breaches of the Consumer Rights Act should face enforcement action – with penalties up to £5,000 for each single ticket listing. The CRA should apply equally to websites based abroad if they allow sales to UK buyers of UK-based events."

"We believe these measures, if implemented, could significantly curtail

the activities of professional online touts, and help bring much-needed transparency to an under-regulated secondary ticketing market."

Secondary ticketing websites are online platforms that enable tickets to live music or other entertainment events to be bought and sold and FanFair is targeting the biggest sites.

"The four main sites are Viagogo, based in Switzerland, StubHub, owned by eBay, and GetMeIn and Seatwave, both owned by Live Nation/Ticketmaster, the world's dominant 'primary' ticket seller," said the FanFair spokesman.

"Why is secondary ticketing so controversial? Two words: ticket touts. The practice of buying and reselling tickets for profit has always existed in some shape or form but, in the digital era, the scale of touting has increased substantially and for a variety of reasons."

"First, professionalised ticket touting. Using specialist software touts can hack into primary ticketing systems and 'harvest' their inventory using multiple credit cards – typically before or at

the moment that tickets are made available to the general public. These are then listed and sold for profit on secondary ticketing websites."

"Second, there is a lack of regulation. Unlike other online marketplaces, such as eBay or Amazon, secondary ticketing websites lack transparency and routinely allow breaches of consumer law. For instance, by allowing professional touts to trade anonymously."

"Fans are confused. The marketing practices of secondary ticketing websites – and, increasingly, primary ticketing websites – often make it difficult for fans to locate face-value tickets. Try typing the name of your favourite artist plus 'tickets' into a search engine. The results are often weighted in favour of secondary ticketing sites, even when face-value tickets are available."

"Ticket touting is illegal in some instances, for example, the general resale of football tickets has been banned in the UK since 1994. However, unlike countries such as France or Norway, the reselling of live-music tickets for profit is not breaking UK law."

"We need this to change. Industrial-scale ticket touting is hugely damaging to music businesses, and to the wider music economy – diverting millions of pounds into the back pockets of touts. Fans who are ripped off and forced to pay over the odds on secondary ticketing websites will have less budget to spend on recordings, on merchandise and on other events."

"This market distortion also has a significant cultural impact. Music is obviously a commercial business, but its future prosperity is dependent on live performances being accessible to the widest possible audience, and to young people in particular."

The music business is hoping that London mayor Sadiq Khan's new night czar Amy Lamé will make the touting crisis a priority and will add her weight to the pressure on government for a radical change.

In the meantime, fans can join the campaign and make a stand by writing to their favourite artists, urging them to sign the FanFair Alliance Declaration at fanfairalliance.org.

Talk of the town

Rock legend teams up with violinists

ROCK legend Robert Plant and pioneering jazz violinist Jean-Luc Ponty will join Nigel Kennedy for a once-in-a-lifetime performance at the Royal Albert Hall next month.

The Led Zeppelin vocalist and jazz-rock virtuoso are among the high-profile stars confirmed to appear with legendary violinist Kennedy as he headlines the venue's *Love Classical* festival on Tuesday March 14.

Other guests announced include renowned violinists Michael Guttman and Pieter Daniel, Bulgarian gadulka player Georgi Andreev and Kennedy's own ensemble, the Orchestra Of Life.

Kennedy said: "This is shaping up to be an amazing concert."

"Planty is a genuine rock legend and a true musical trailblazer."

"He's always pushing and challenging himself and immersing himself in music. When we work together it's a combination of power and creativity."

"The other guests are incredible too. Jean-Luc Ponty is a genius, one of the greatest in jazz ever, an innovator with a unique visionary spin."

"Then we've got Georgi over from Bulgaria, which will be special. What drags me into his music so successfully is his honesty and sincerity."

"I'll have a strong relationship with everyone on that stage, it won't just be some generic orchestra."

Lucy Noble, artistic director at the Royal Albert Hall, said fans would be wowed by the teaming of Kennedy and

Plant on two very special songs.

"We're incredibly excited to be announcing this amazing collaboration between one of Britain's greatest rock legends and a violinist who has spent his career pushing the boundaries of his art, creating incredible music that breaks down the boundaries between genres," she said.

"This meeting of two of our most acclaimed musicians promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience – and with the likes of Jean Luc Ponty also confirmed for this gala celebration, it's destined to be an incredible night. If you didn't already think that Nigel Kennedy's show is unmissable, it is now."

Plant made unforgettable appearances with Led Zeppelin in 1969 and 1970 at the iconic London venue, later returning as a solo headliner. He first worked with Kennedy on his album *Fate Of Nations* in 1993.

The exact details of *Nigel Kennedy And Friends: Gala Celebration* are being kept under wraps but the show is expected to include Bach, Vivaldi, jazz, world music and a tribute to Jimi Hendrix, who made his first appearance at the Royal Albert Hall 40 years ago.

Love Classical runs from March 4 to 17 and includes headline shows from Kennedy, celebrated pianist Lang Lang, and Classic BRIT winner Alison Balsom among the 21 shows across seven spaces.

For more information, see website royalalberthall.com.

Olivia Coleman, David Tennant and Julie Hesmondhalgh in *Broadchurch*



THE third and final series of *Broadchurch* commenced on Londoners' television screens last night, seeing the daring duo of DI Alec Hardy and DS Ellie Miller faced with another heinous crime within the ill-fated coastal town.

The award-winning television drama has become famed not just for its harrowing storylines but also for its picturesque setting.

ITV1 show *Broadchurch* stars David Tennant and Olivia Colman as Hardy and Miller, a local crime-solving duo whose lives and careers are irrevocably changed after a child's body is found at the bottom of the East Cliff.

The popular pair have been called upon one last time with a new story, which begins three years after we were last in Broadchurch.

Lives have moved on. Some people have left, some have arrived – and there's a new case to test this old partnership.

A whole host of stars joined the cast for the final instalment, including BAFTA winners Lenny Henry and Georgina Campbell, Sarah Parish, Charlie Higson, Mark Bazeley and National Television Award winner Julie Hesmondhalgh.

Hesmondhalgh plays Trish Winterman, a farm-shop worker who has recently become estranged from her husband and is the victim of a serious sexual assault.

The actress undertook exhaustive investigation before taking on the role in order to

make her portrayal as truthful as possible and met with SARC, the dedicated Sexual Assault Referral Centre for Dorset, which provides a comprehensive service to men, women and children who have been raped or sexually assaulted.

She was surprised by the sheer volume of victims and said: "There's no template for who it happens to and it seems like an epidemic, so it's great that a programme like *Broadchurch* is highlighting this type of issue."

"In particular, what they have wanted to do with this is to show women that the police is a safe place to go to and that things have changed."

"There used to be the feeling that you would be treated very badly or not believed and I think there has been a change in the culture of that. Who better to show that than Ellie and Alec?"

"They are the police that everyone would want to go to for something like this."

Hesmondhalgh is no stranger to powerful portrayals having previously played the transgender Hayley Cropper in *Coronation Street*, a role for which she garnered six major awards including a National Television Award.

The traumatic episodes depicting her assisted suicide were watched by more than 9.5 million viewers.

The actress is very aware of the impact her profession can have on audiences.

She said: "Historically I've played parts

Nicky Sweetland interviews
BROADCHURCH
star Julie Hesmondhalgh

Talk of the town

WITH fog clinging to the Thames like an eerie and mystical cloak, my winter blues were replaced with fulsome frivolity and hearty joy after enjoying what is still one of the best shows in town.

Kinky Boots strutted into the Adelphi Theatre in 2015 – and after winning an abundance of accolades, including the Olivier Award for best musical, the show continues to envelop audiences in its world of colourful creativity.

With the current political landscape, its message of acceptance gives a timely reminder to those feeling bereft of hope that there is still a world where those classed as different are celebrated rather than vilified, while the message to "Just be who you want to be" chimes loud and clear.

Based on the 2005 British film, which was inspired by true events, *Kinky Boots* tells the story of Charlie Price, who, after inheriting a shoe factory from his father, forms an unlikely partnership with cabaret performer and drag queen Lola.

The pair embark on a project to produce a line of bespoke fashion footwear which will make them industry forerunners and ultimately save the business.

With music by pop icon Cyndi Lauper and a book by renowned Broadway director Harvey Fierstein, *Kinky Boots* has taken the musical-theatre world by storm and has enjoyed huge success in countries across the globe.

Olivier Award winner Matt Henry continues to lead the London cast as Lola, resplendent in dazzling gowns and striking high-heeled boots, accompanied by his An-

KINKY BOOTS
at Adelphi Theatre



Nicky
Sweetland
reviews



gels – a gaggle of gloriously talented and gorgeous gals who high kick, back flip and split drop through the show – bringing a heart-racing energy every time they appear.

Some of the understudies were given their chance to shine on the night I visited. James Ballanger's testy Don, Emma Crossley's feisty Lauren and Paul Ayres' troubled Charlie really thrilled me.

The perfect way to dispel a dose of the grumps, *Kinky Boots* is an uplifting and thoroughly joyous musical extravaganza which always leaves audiences with a spring in their step as they stroll out on to the Strand.

Kinky Boots continues at the Adelphi Theatre. If you would like further information, visit kinkybootsthemusical.co.uk.

REVIEW

STOMP
Ambassadors Theatre
★★★★★

FOR more than 25 years *STOMP* has been banging, crashing and whacking things for the entertainment of London audiences – and the groundbreaking stage production shows no signs of keeping quiet, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The show – which involves the cast using everyday objects as percussion instruments – has been performed to audiences all over the world and won numerous accolades, including an Oliver Award for best entertainment.

The onomatopoeic name reflects the delightful deluge of sound which awaits guests at the Ambassadors Theatre. But in addition, audiences are treated to some tremendous percussive dance, hilarious clowning and exhilarating acrobatics.

It's not all noisy bin lids and loud frying pans, with more subtle and subdued moments integrated into the show in order to give a light and shade to the action. There is a breathtaking routine using Zippo lighters,



one involving the cast bouncing atop tractor inner tubes and a daring derby with supermarket shopping trollies.

The big highlight, however, is when the intrepid squad abseil from the junk-yard-style set and use it as their drum kit as they swing back and forth in a daring and awe-inspiring routine.

The unique theatrical presentation is even surprisingly touching at times but mostly offers a comical and spectacular evening at the theatre.

STOMP continues at the Ambassadors Theatre. For more information, visit the website stomplondon.com.

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Wasted food mountain could bring end to starvation: study

GLUTTONY and waste account for up a fifth of the world's food stock – enough to feed the starving, a study shows. People overeating consume 10 per cent more than they need, while nearly nine per cent is thrown away or left to spoil.

This wasted food mountain could go to feed the one billion malnourished around the globe.

Encouraging people to eat less meat and dairy, stop waste and not exceed nutritional needs could help to reverse these trends, say scientists.

Study leader Dr Peter Alexander, of the University of Edinburgh, said: "Reducing losses from the global food system would improve food security and help prevent environmental harm."

"Until now it was not known how overeating impacts on the system."

"Not only is it harmful to health – we found overeating is bad for the environment and impairs food security."

"We need to look at what kinds of food we eat. Meat and animal products for instance are inefficient ways of producing calories because you need other foods to make them."

"We are not saying everyone should become vegan but thinking about our diet is a different way of looking at how we can all help in some small way – otherwise the world is going to get into serious difficulty."

Efforts to reduce these billions of tonnes could improve global food security – ensuring everyone has access to a safe, affordable, nutritious diet while preventing environmental damage.

The researchers analysed 10 key stages in the global food system – including food consumption and the growing and harvesting of crops – to quantify the extent of losses.

Using data collected primarily by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation they found more food is lost from the system than was previously feared.

Almost half of harvested crops – or 2.1 billion tonnes – are lost through over-consumption, consumer waste and inefficiencies in production processes.

Livestock production is the least efficient process with losses of 78 per cent – or 840 million tonnes.

Some 1.08 billion tonnes of harvested crops are used to produce 240 million tonnes of edible animal products including meat, milk and



A hard-hitting sign at the UK's first supermarket offering only food which has been thrown out by other supermarkets. The store is in Pudsey, West Yorkshire. Food waste campaigners from the Real Junk Food Project opened the "warehouse" in September. Picture: Alex Cousins/SWNS

eggs. This stage alone accounts for 40 per cent of all losses of harvested crops, said the researchers.

Increased demand for some foods – particularly meat and dairy products – would decrease the efficiency of the food system and could make it difficult to feed the world's expanding population in sustainable ways.

Meeting this demand could cause environmental harm by increasing greenhouse-gas emissions, depleting water supplies and causing loss of biodiversity.

In 2015 a UN report found that if the amount of food wasted was reduced by only 25 per cent there would be enough to feed all the people who are malnourished.

Well-publicised attempts to combat the loss – such as laws in France that require supermarkets to distribute unsold food to charities – have highlighted the issue identified by the UN as one of the great challenges to achieving food security.

Dr Alexander's colleague Professor Dominic Moran, of the University of York, said: "This study highlights food security has production and consumption dimensions that

need to be considered when designing sustainable food systems. It also highlights the definition of waste can mean different things to different people."

Estimates suggest that by 2050 food production will need to have increased by 60 per cent on 2005 levels to feed a growing global population.

In developing countries there are high levels of unintentional wastage – often due to poor equipment, transportation and infrastructure.

In wealthy countries there are high levels of 'food waste' which involves food being thrown away by consumers because they have purchased too much or by retailers who reject food because of exacting aesthetic standards.

The study published in the journal *Agricultural Systems* was funded through a global food security programme supported by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, Economic and Social Research Council, Natural Environment Research Council and the Scottish Government.

MARK HIX MBE'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Breast of chicken with ginger and wild garlic broth
Serves 2



BLACK garlic is produced down my way on the South West Garlic Farm and lends itself to all sorts of things including marinades or glazes like this.

2 chicken breasts
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
4 cloves of black garlic
2tbsp treacle or honey
1tbs light soy sauce
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
100ml chicken broth from recipe
2 spring onions, cut into 3cm lengths
30g root ginger, scraped and finely shredded
A handful of wild garlic leaves and stems, separated

Breast of chicken with ginger and wild garlic broth (Jason Lowe)

Pre-heat the oven to 200C/gas mark 6. Make a paste with the black garlic, honey and soy in a blender or small food processor and season.

Score the chicken breasts five or six times then place on a small baking tray lined with foil.

Brush the breasts generously with the marinade and bake in the oven for about 15 minutes, brushing with more marinade and turning as they are cooking so they get well glazed and caramelised.

Meanwhile, bring the broth to a simmer, add the spring onions, wild garlic stems and ginger and simmer for a minute then stir in the wild garlic leaves and remove from the heat.

To serve, place the chicken breasts in a pasta-bowl-type dish with the skin side up, then spoon the broth around.



UCL boffins claim long-term stress can make you fat

LONG-TERM stress may make you fat, a new study warns.

Those exposed to several months of high levels of the stress hormone cortisol were more persistently overweight than their relaxed peers.

It is believed chronic stress is linked to obesity because stressed-out people overeat, reaching for "comfort foods" high in fat, sugar and calories to help them cope.

The hormone also plays an im-

portant role in metabolism and determining where fat is stored.

Previous studies relied mainly on measurements of the hormone in blood, saliva or urine which vary according to the time of day and other situational factors.

These studies failed to capture long-term cortisol levels so University College London researchers examined hair samples.

They analysed 2,527 men and women aged over 54 taking part in

the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, taking data over a four-year period.

A lock of hair 2cm long cut as close possible to a person's scalp which represented approximately two months' hair growth with associated accumulated levels of cortisol were taken. People with higher levels of cortisol in their hair tended to have larger waist circumference measurements, were heavier and had a higher

body mass index. Those classified as obese on the basis of their BMI of more than 30 or waist circumference of more than 40in in men and 34.5in in women had particularly high levels of hair cortisol.

Researcher Dr Sarah Jackson said: "These results provide consistent evidence that chronic stress is associated with higher levels of obesity."

"People who had higher hair cortisol levels also tended to have

larger waist measurements, which is important because carrying excess fat around the abdomen is a risk factor for heart disease, diabetes and premature death."

"Hair cortisol is a relatively new measure which offers a suitable and easily obtainable method for assessing chronically high levels of cortisol concentrations in weight research and may therefore aid in further advancing understanding in this area."

Property

House price growth in London has slowed to the weakest pace seen in nearly four years, with property values in Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester now rising more quickly than the capital, according to an index reported by *The Independent*.

Year-on-year house price growth in London was running at 6.4 per cent in January – the lowest level recorded since June 2013 – according to property analysts Hometrack.

The report said house price growth in London is expected to slow towards a 'standstill' during 2017.

The index, which monitors house prices across the UK's 20 biggest cities, found Bristol remains the city with the strongest house price growth, with an annual increase of 9.5 per cent in January.

Oxford has the next fastest growth, with a 9.2 per cent annual house price rise. Manchester, where property values have increased by 8.3 per cent year-on-year, is in third place.

London was placed eighth, behind cities including Southampton and Bournemouth.

Aberdeen is the only city on the list where house prices have fallen



over the last year, recording a 3.7 per cent decline. Hometrack said house prices in London, at £486,600 on average, are now 85 per cent higher than they were in 2009. Other major cities, which have not experienced such fast house price growth over this period, are continuing to see prices heading robustly upwards.

But this could be a benefit to the market, according to some analysts.

The Financial Times has recently reported that house price cuts and the fall in the value of the pound are breathing life back into the prime London property market, with the number of homes under offer at its highest since before the EU referendum.

"After slumping in 2016 to levels less than half of those the previous year, the number of offers in prime

districts such as Chelsea and Belgravia rose in January to just 4.5 per cent below the level a year ago," according to LonRes, a data firm, "reported *The Financial Times*.

"This is one indicator of the market over the next few months," said Marcus Dixon, head of research at LonRes. "People who are serious about selling have realised they need to be more competitive with their pricing, and to entertain lower offers. There is also the currency play, particularly at the upper end. Sterling has fallen by 16 per cent since the Brexit vote on June 23. Combining these factors could lead to a total discount of 30 to 40 per cent for buyers compared with the top of the market", said Mr Dixon.

Properties in leafy central London areas that typically cost millions of pounds are now selling at an average discount of 10.8 per cent to the asking price, according to LonRes. Asking prices underwent a wave of discounting after the EU referendum. About half of buyers in these areas are from overseas, meaning those converting their funds from other major currencies will also benefit from sterling's decline since the vote.

"It's an interesting market.

Turnover is right down and there's not much around [for sale], so with people trying to buy, there is some upward pressure on prices," said Charlie Ellingworth, founder of the buying agency Property Vision.

"Prices are firming up, although they are still considerably off since the top of the market. Where [a home] is good, there is competition – if something looks like a bargain, people will go for it."

London's high-end property market has been declining for two years, partly thanks to changes to stamp duty that first increased the tax on expensive homes and then added an extra 3 per cent for second and additional properties. Prices had previously seen three years of strong growth.

Transaction levels are now 17 per cent below those a year ago, with prices per square foot some 4 per cent lower, LonRes said. But the transaction figures a year ago partly reflect a rush to buy ahead of the latest stamp duty changes.

That still leaves prices for the most expensive postcodes – within Mayfair, Kensington, Chelsea, Belgravia and Knightsbridge – at an average of £2.1m for flats and £5.6m for houses.

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1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Jerdan Place between its junctions with Fulham Broadway and Vanston Place.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Fulham Broadway and Vanston Place.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 5th March 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Sunday 5th March 2017 and last for 1 day with a back-up date of 19th March 2017 which will also last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1) (KING STREET)

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2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of King Street between its junctions with Queen Caroline Street and Cambridge Grove.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Shepherd's Bush Road and Goldhawk Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 7th March 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 7th March 2017 and last until Thursday 27th July 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 10th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

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4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 14th March 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Tuesday 14th March 2017 and last for 8 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1) (CARNWATH ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate sewer lining works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Carnwath Road outside the Piper Building.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Peterborough Road, Sullivan Road and Broomhouse Lane.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 11th March 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Saturday 11th March 2017 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 23rd day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(FULHAM PALACE ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water main works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would temporarily suspend a section of the northbound bus lane on Fulham Palace Road and 6 parking bays in Biscay Road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed the northbound bus Lane on Fulham Palace Road between Distillery Lane and Beryl Road shall be suspended.
3. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed the 3 parking bays between the junction of Fulham Palace Road and No. 1 Biscay Road and 3 parking bays between the junction of Fulham Palace Road and No. 2 Biscay Road shall be suspended.
4. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
5. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
6. The Order would come into operation on the 22nd March 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
7. Works would be expected to commence on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 and last for 17 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(BARON'S COURT ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate gas main works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Baron's Court Road between Challoner Street and Vereker Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Vereker Road and Comeragh Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 18th April 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Tuesday 18th April 2017 and last for 4 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Public Notices



Notice of Submission of the Hammersmith and Fulham Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England)

Regulations 2012 Regulation

Notice is hereby given that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham has submitted its Local Plan in accordance with Section 20 of the 2004 Act and Regulation 22 of the 2012 Regulations to the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government on 28th February 2017 for examination.

The Local Plan and supporting documents submitted can be viewed on the Council's website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/localplan

The documents include:

- Proposed Submission Local Plan 2016
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Proposals Map changes Document
- Consultation Statement
- Copies of representations made in response to the Local Plan consultation which took place between September and October 2016
- Duty to Co-operate Statement
- Documents consisting of the Local Plan's evidence base

Hard copies of the Local Plan, Sustainability Appraisal (Full Report), Proposals Map changes and Consultation Statement will also be made available for inspection at the following information points. Hardcopies of other documents can be made available upon request.

- Hammersmith Town Hall Extension, First Floor, Duty Planner Office, King Street, London, W6 9JU (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday);
- Fulham Library which is situated at 598 Fulham Road 10am to 8 pm Monday to Thursday, 10am to 5pm Friday and Saturday and 11am to 5pm Sunday;
- Hammersmith Library which is situated in Shepherds Bush Road 10am to 8 pm Monday to Thursday, 10am to 5pm Friday and Saturday and 11am to 5pm Sunday; and
- Shepherds Bush Library which is situated at 6 Wood Lane 10am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm Saturday and 11am to 5pm Sunday).

The Local Plan will now be subjected to an independent examination to be conducted by the Planning Inspectorate. This is a continuous process running from the date of submission through to the receipt of the appointed Planning Inspector's Report. Part of this process will involve hearing sessions where those invited to attend will have the opportunity to respond to matters raised by the appointed Planning Inspector. Once confirmed, all details relating to the examination process will be advertised, made available online and sent to all respondents.

For further information please contact a member of the Development Plans Team
localplan@lbhf.gov.uk or 020 8753 3384

Local Planning Applications

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)

ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

96 Settrington Road London SW6 3BA 2017/00523/FUL

Erection of a front roof extension including raising the ridge height of the main roof at roof level; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; alterations to the rear fenestration at first and second floor level.

8 Weavers Terrace

Micklethwaite Road London SW6 1QE 2017/00188/FUL

Retention of double glazed windows at ground and first floor level; retention of double glazed door at ground floor level to the rear elevation.

Flat First Second And Third Floors 30 Aynhoe Road London W14 0QD 2017/00091/FUL

Alteration to the main roof to accommodate a sunken terrace and installation of two sliding rooflights for access; replacement of existing windows with new double glazed timber framed windows to the front, side and rear elevations; replacement of velux windows at roof level (amended description).

46 Edenvale Street London SW6 2SF 2017/00468/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension including the formation of a hip to gable roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 200mm; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roof slope; bricking up of 1no window at first floor level to the rear elevation.

1 Montrose Villas Hammersmith Terrace London W6 9TT 2017/00562/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension.

23 Rainville Road London W6 9HA 2017/00370/FUL

Replacement of existing softwood windows and doors with double glazed hardwood windows and doors.

11 Bute Gardens London W6 7DR 2017/00389/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Flat B 11 Salisbury Pavement Dawes Road London SW6 7HT 2017/00167/FUL

Change of use from residential (Class C3) into a bed and breakfast accommodation (Class C1).

White Horse 1 - 3 Parsons Green London SW6 4UL 2017/00489/FUL

Erection of new timber posts with retractable canvas awning fronting north eastern elevation of the public house.

68 Emlyn Road London W12 9TD 2017/00491/VAR

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2016/02488/FUL granted 22nd July 2016 to allow the retention of enlarged roof extension, alterations to the size of rear dormer window in the rear roof slope, enlargement of the window at first floor level to the rear elevation and raising of the chimney stack at roof level.

Duke Of Cornwall 48 Fulham Palace Road London W6 9PH 2017/00492/ADV

Erection of a front and rear roof extension; and erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition.

42 Horder Road London SW6 5EE 2017/00485/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension; and erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition.

32 Novello Street London SW6 4JB 2017/00530/FUL

Extensions to the front and rear of the existing additional floor; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition.

17 Rylett Crescent London W12 9RP 2017/00505/VAR

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2014/05757/VAR granted 29th January 2015 to allow amendments to the approved drawings to include alterations to the roof and installation of new rooflights above the roof of single storey ground floor extension, installation of new rooflights in the side roofslopes of the main roof and alterations to the windows at first floor level, to the side and rear elevation.

4 Gransden Road London W12 9SA 2017/00499/VAR

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2016/03065/FUL granted 1st September 2016 to include the squaring off the roof of back addition at second floor level in connection with the enlargement of the second floor rear extension.

Riverside Studios And Queens Wharf Crisp Road London W6 2017/00549/FUL

Installation of a satellite dish, aerials and ancillary works at roof level.

Riverside Studios And Queens Wharf Crisp Road London W6 2017/00550/FUL

Installation of two satellite dishes, aerials and ancillary works at roof level.

47 - 48 Shepherd's Bush Green London W12 8PS 2017/00515/FUL

Retention of a part one, part two and part four storey rear extensions;

Change of use of the existing building from language school with ancillary accommodation (Class C2) into a hotel (Class C1).

Flat B First Floor 158 Munster Road London SW6 5RA 2017/00465/FUL

Retention of use of the flat roof of back addition as a roof terrace and retention of French doors to the side of rear back addition at first floor level; replacement of existing balustrades and the erection of new privacy screen around the flat roof of back addition at first floor level.

Samuel Lewis Trust Dwellings Lisgar Terrace London W14 8SE 2017/00526/FUL

Minor material amendment to planning permission reference: 2009/01260/FUL granted 15th September 2010 in regards bicycle storage, with the removal of the existing bicycle stores from the courtyard gardens and combining them with the existing bicycle stores on the site boundary.

1 - 7 Albion Court Albion Place London W6 0QT 2017/00538/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension at first floor level.

Flat First Second And Third Floors 30 Aynhoe Road London W14 0QD 2017/00091/FUL

Erection of an extension at first floor level on the southern elevation of Block 1, enclosing refuse area below at ground floor level.

Flat Ground Floor 9 Kenyon Street London SW6 6JZ 2017/00551/FUL

Excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement; and erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level in the rear garden.

Flat First Floor 134 Munster Road London SW6 5RD 2017/00525/FUL

Installation of 2no rooflights in the front roof slope; conversion of the first and second floor level into 1 x one bedroom and 1 x two bedroom self-contained flats.

5 Rowan Terrace London W6 7DZ 2017/00542/VAR

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2016/01537/FUL granted 2nd June 2016 to include: increasing the height of the single storey outbuilding in the rear garden by 230mm.

145 Harbord Street London SW6 6PN 2017/00274/FUL

Erection of a single storey timber shed and formation of an acoustic enclosure comprising of 2no air conditioning units in the rear garden.

Flat B 11 Salisbury Pavement Dawes Road London SW6 7HT 2017/00167/FUL

Change of use from residential (Class C3) into a bed and breakfast accommodation (Class C1).

White Horse 1 - 3 Parsons Green London SW6 4UL 2017/00489/FUL

Erection of new timber posts with retractable canvas awning fronting north eastern elevation of the public house.

68 Emlyn Road London W12 9TD 2017/00491/VAR

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2016/02488/FUL granted 22nd July 2016 to allow the retention of enlarged roof extension, alterations to the size of rear dormer window in the rear roof slope, enlargement of the window at first floor level to the rear elevation and raising of the chimney stack at roof level.

Duke Of Cornwall 48 Fulham Palace Road London W6 9PH 2017/00492/ADV

Erection of a front and rear roof extension; and erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition.

42 Horder Road London SW6 5EE 2017/00485/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension; and erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition.

32 Novello Street London SW6 4JB 2017/00530/FUL

Extensions to the front and rear of the existing additional floor; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition.

17 Rylett Crescent London W12 9RP 2017/00505/VAR

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2014/05757/VAR granted 29th January 2015 to allow amendments to the approved drawings to include alterations to the roof and installation of new rooflights above the roof of single storey ground floor extension, installation of new rooflights in the side roofslopes of the main roof and alterations to the windows at first floor level, to the side and rear elevation.

4 Gransden Road London W12 9SA 2017/00499/VAR

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2016/03065/FUL granted 1st September 2016 to include the squaring off the roof of back addition at second floor level in connection with the enlargement of the second floor rear extension.

Riverside Studios And Queens Wharf Crisp Road London W6 2017/00549/FUL

Installation of a satellite dish, aerials and ancillary works at roof level.

Riverside Studios And Queens Wharf Crisp Road London W6 2017/00550/FUL

Installation of two satellite dishes, aerials and ancillary works at roof level.

47 - 48 Shepherd's Bush Green London W12 8PS 2017/00515/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at ground and first floor level; installation of French doors, window and formation of a roof terrace at first floor level to the rear elevation.

the rear elevation; installation of a new rooflight in the front and rear roofslopes and above the roof of first floor back addition; installation of a new entrance door and windows to replace the existing door and windows to the front elevation.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT 11 Bute Gardens London W6 7DR 2017/00390/LBC

Erection of a single storey rear extension; removal of kitchen partition and installation of new partitioning to the kitchen on the ground floor; installation of new partitioning to the bathroom at first floor level; removal of partitioning to first floor landing reading space.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING 1 Montrose Villas Hammersmith Terrace London W6 9TT 2017/00562/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension.

11 Bute Gardens London W6 7DR 2017/00389/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Duke Of Cornwall 48 Fulham Palace Road London W6 9PH 2017/00492/ADV

Display of 1no externally illuminated fascia sign, 1no internally illuminated fascia sign, 2no internally illuminated menu signs and 2 sets of non-illuminated lettering to the front elevation.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 20th March 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013 NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

75 - 77 Jeddah Road London W12 9ED 2017/00391/FUL

I give notice that Mr Barry Doherty is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of existing three storey building except front facade and front roof slope; erection of

replacement three storey high building with rear roof addition behind retained front facade to provide 460 sq.m of office space (Class B1(a)) and a 27 sq.m retail unit (Class A1) at ground floor level, and 8no. residential units (2 x 1 bed, 5 x 2 bed, 1 x 3 bed) at first floor level and above; with associated external rear terrace areas and alterations to front facade; and provision of on-site cycle storage. The proposal constitutes a major development.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 20th March 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: JULIEMMA MCLOUGHLIN Director for Planning and Development on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website:

www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancComments@lbhf.gov.uk

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6

between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET

W6 9JU by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly.

For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on 020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082.

Dated this 10th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Public Notices

MICHAEL HICKEY
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of FLAT 20, PARK COURT, LONDON W6 0JZ, who died on 18/08/2013, are requested to write particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 20/04/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

M Chilvers,
The London Gazette (3178),
PO Box 5594,
Norwich NR7 7WD.

To advertise
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8768 4919

South London & MERCURY

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL TAX FOR 2017 / 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham has set, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the above Act, the amount of Council Tax for 2017/2018 for dwellings within each Valuation Band as indicated in the Schedule below:

Schedule of Council Tax by Valuation Band

| Band | Council Tax £ |
|------|---------------|
| A | 671.89 |
| B | 783.86 |
| C | 895.85 |
| D | 1007.83 |
| E | 1231.80 |
| F | 1455.75 |
| G | 1679.72 |
| H | 2015.66 |

It should be noted the amounts above are before:
- discounts of 25% for single person occupants
- council tax support

Dated: 23 February 2017

Nigel Palace
Chief Executive

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT Cogden Estates Ltd has applied to Kensington & Chelsea Borough Council on 22nd February 2017 for the grant of a premises licence to use the premises at 27-31 Basil Street, London, SW3 1BB for the Sale of Alcohol on Monday to Friday 10:00 to 24:00, Saturday 10:00 to 24:00 and Sunday 12:00 to 23:00 and Late Night Permits on Monday to Sunday 23:00 to 00:30 and Recorded Music (unrestricted) as more particularly set out in the application.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: Licensing Department, 37 Pembroke Road, London, W8 6PW to be received by no later than 22nd March 2017 stating the grounds for making said representation.

A copy of the application can be inspected on the Council's website www.tcbc.gov.uk or at the above address during office hours.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is unlimited.

Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP
38a Monmouth Street, London
WC2H 9EP www.tandtp.com

To advertise in the
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Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A10 GLA ROAD (GRACECHURCH STREET, CITY OF LONDON) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2017

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable carriageway works to take place on Gracechurch Street.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:
 - Turning left from Fenchurch Street into Gracechurch Street;
 - Proceeding southbound on Gracechurch Street past the junction of Fenchurch Street;
 - Exiting Gracechurch Street at the junction of Eastcheap and King William Street;
- The Order will also
 - Lift the weight restriction to allow vehicles over 18 tonnes to proceed from Eastcheap, King William Street or Cannon Street into Gracechurch Street.

The Order will be effective between the dates of 26th February 2017 and 27th March 2017, every Sunday between 8.00 PM and 5.00 AM (ending 5.00 AM Monday) or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
- At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via

[To turn right from Fenchurch Street] Gracechurch Street northbound, Bishopsgate, Threadneedle Street, King William Street to normal route of travel;

[To proceed southbound on Gracechurch Street] Fenchurch Street, Mincing Lane, Great Tower Street, Eastcheap to normal route of travel.

Dated this 28th day of February 2016

Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE GLA ROADS AND GLA SIDE ROADS (WESTMINSTER) RED ROUTE CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC ORDER 2008 A4202 GLA ROAD (PARK LANE) EXPERIMENTAL VARIATION ORDER 2017

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that on 24th February 2017 it made the above named Experimental Orders under sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will come into force on 10th March 2017 and may remain in force for up to 18 months.
- The road affected by the Order is A4202 Park Road in the City of Westminster.
- The general nature and effect of the Order is to introduce a new 15 metre Parking Bay on the A4202 Park Lane outside the Dorchester Hotel. The hours of operation will be 'No Stopping At Any Time Except buses 10am - 4pm and 7pm - 7am pick up or set down only'.
- Where it appears necessary for certain purposes, Transport for London or any person authorised by them may modify or suspend the Order or any provisions in it, while the Order is in force.
- In due course Transport for London will be considering whether or not the provisions of the Order should be continued in force indefinitely. Within the period of six months from the coming into force of the Order, or if the Order is subsequently varied by another Order or modified, from the coming into force of that variation or modification (whichever is the latest), any person may object to the making of an Order to continue indefinitely those provisions. Any such objection should be made in writing, giving the grounds on which it is made, and sent to Transport for London, Streets Traffic Order Team, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ quoting reference RSM/PI/STOT/TRO, GLA/2017/0128. Any objection may be communicated to other persons who may be affected.
- A copy of the Order, a statement of Transport for London's reasons for the proposals and for proceeding by way of experiment, a map indicating the location and effect of the Order and copies of any Order revoked suspended or varied by the Order can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:

| | |
|--|---|
| • Transport for London Streets Traffic Order Team (RSM/PI/STOT) Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road London, SE1 8NJ | • City Commissioner of Transportation City of Westminster, City Hall 11th Floor North West 64 Victoria Street London SW1E 6QP |
|--|---|
- The documents referred to in paragraph 6 will be available for inspection during the period within which objection can be made in accordance with paragraph 5 above.
- Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that they are not within the relevant powers conferred by the Act or that any requirement of the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order is made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated this 3rd day of March 2017

Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



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London Weekly News &
South London & MERCURY

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Orders are accepted by the Publishers subject to the Standard Conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. Save that:

- Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that (a) descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973, and (b) the copy complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1986.
- Classified Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.

To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1997, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as 'trade', 'dealer', 'agent', 'wholesaler', 'T/T' etc. in the advertisement.

- The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:
 - Any error, inaccuracy or omission in the printing or publishing of any advertisement;
 - Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / date / dates specified by the advertiser;
 - Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.

4. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or day / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.

5. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reason the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full page even after shrinkage.

6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.
7. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers and/or agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for re-publication or allowances.

8. All gross advertising rates (except classified image and service) are subject to and include a 6.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.

9. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.

10. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.

11. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed as acceptance of these conditions.

12. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.

13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer.

14. Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.

15. Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should Legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1984.

16. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect of an advertisement should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.

17. All invoices must be notified, preferably in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.

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Mark Lazarus recalls a memorable cup final

MARK LAZARUS, who scored QPR's winner in the League Cup Final half-a-century ago, talks exclusively to LWN's Tony McDonald in part one of a candid interview with one of the game's great characters...

ON Saturday, 50 years to the day since Queens Park Rangers' greatest triumph, one of their Wembley legends will receive a standing ovation from the home crowd before Rangers take on Cardiff City.

Mark Lazarus, the ex-boxer who always packed a punch on the right-wing, is looking forward to his latest return to the club where he is still held in such great affection – even by those who weren't born before he netted their decisive third goal against West Bromwich Albion in the 1967 League Cup Final.

It was an astonishing, Lazarus-like, comeback by the third division underdogs against their top flight opponents. Albion led 2-0 at half-time through a couple of goals by Clive Clark – who had joined them from Rangers seven years earlier – and looked well on course to win the first League Cup Final to be played under the fabled Twin Towers and the first to be decided by a single game instead of over two legs.

Alec Stock's side – in all-white kit and the first club from the third tier to appear in a Wembley final – were given no more than faint hope when Roger Morgan headed their first goal from a Lazarus cross in the 63rd minute. But dreams of giant-killing glory were reigned by Rodney Marsh cutting a swathe through West Brom defenders to equalise with his 35th goal of the season.

There were just nine minutes left when Lazarus sealed a 3-2 victory on the most memorable day in R's history, slotting home the loose ball from near the penalty spot with his left foot following a one-two with Ron Hunt.

"I've got good memories of that cup run," said Mark, 78, enjoying retirement at home in Romford, Essex with his wife Fay.

And so he should. Lazarus scored in the 5-0 first round home win against Colchester United, was on target in the 4-2 fourth round hammering of Leicester City at Loftus Road and netted again in the first leg of the semi-final at Birmingham City, where the West Londoners came from one down at half-time to win 4-1 and then hammered the Blues 3-1 in the second leg. They needed a replay to see off Aldershot in round two before beating Swansea Town 2-1. In seven games en route to Wembley, Rangers hit 23 goals, with Marsh scoring 10.

"Our best performance in the competition was the 4-1 win at Birmingham," recalls Mark, who made a total of 235 league and cup appearances for QPR in three spells. Alec Stock, who first discovered the Stepney-born Lazarus during his time as boss of Leyton Orient in the late 50s,



West Brom keeper Dick Sheppard and left-back Graham Williams denied Mark on this occasion



At the 1967 post-final reception, Mark hands team-mate Jim Langley a piece of chicken while Fay Lazarus also celebrates with a glass of champs



Mark today with the Wembley programme from 1967

ended up signing him three times. But Lazarus doesn't attribute Rangers' heroic second-half Wembley fight-back to any inspirational words in the dressing room at half-time.

"Alec wasn't one to shout and holler and he didn't really say much to us at half-time even though we were getting beat two-nil. He wasn't disappointed and acted normally. It was a case of, 'we've done our job just by getting here and we're playing against a good first division side, who were well up in the league'.

"He didn't have a ruck, he tried to encourage us with words like: 'There are 100,000 people out there, 80,000 supporting you, so if you want

to go out there and show 'em what you can do, just play your normal game'."

Mark reveals that the Rangers players were certainly not overburdened by expectations. Even though they were romping towards the Division Three championship and won it 12 points ahead of runners-up Middlesbrough, they had no illusions of grandeur.

"Our goal had been to reach Wembley and every one of us felt the same way. Even though we had beaten some good teams along the way and had confidence in ourselves, I don't think for one minute that any of us thought it would be easy.

"We were definitely nervous on what was a big occasion – I had that stomach-churning feeling before every game, it's good to be psyched up beforehand, although Alec wanted the older players like Jim Langley and myself to be a calming influence on youngsters like Rodney and Frank Sibley.

"We were also known as a bit of a second-half team, so we didn't write ourselves off at half-time against West Brom."

Lazarus admits he might have scored a hat-trick but for the agile goalkeeping of Dick Sheppard.

"In the first-half I had a volley from a corner that was bang on target which he saved. And I had another one in the second-half when I went through the middle, beat a few people and he touched my shot on to the post."

Lazarus still talks about the game just as he always played it – with no-nonsense honesty. He continues: "I wasn't happy with my performance and, overall, the team was poor. Even Rodney had a terrible first-half. Les (Allen) didn't do a lot. Our strength was our forward play – we'd score goals against anyone and from all areas – but our performance in the first-half at Wembley wasn't up to standard. None of us played well."

"I was marked by West Brom and Wales captain Graham Williams but I never got the ball. Whether I wasn't showing enough, or whatever it was, we were under pressure in the first-half and they outplayed us."

"Before our first goal, I went past Williams but he fouled me. And Roger headed in from my free-kick. Rodney created his goal by himself out of nothing. He went past a few and his shot went in off the post."

"Although we hadn't played to our full potential but after Rodney made it 2-2, we all thought we would go on and win. I think their players sensed it too."

"I started the move for our third goal. Ronnie Hunt came out of defence with the ball and we played a one-two. I flicked the return pass up in the air with so much spin on the ball that it dropped like a rugby ball, so their defender failed to trap it and neither could their keeper Sheppard get hold of it."

"They say that, today, the ref might have given a foul against Ron for his challenge on the keeper but it was a 50/50 and he was entitled to go for it. The ball rolled out and I happened to be there to put it in the net. It was a simple goal, a tap-in from 12 yards, but it meant a lot to QPR fans and they still remind me of it."

"I was a showman and liked to celebrate with our supporters, so I went over and shook hands with a few of them. That's when Les Allen came up to me and said: 'Don't take the p***'. Yeah... a wonderful day. I've had so much pleasure and fun out of football."

To mark the biggest occasion in the club's history, the QPR team went into recorded studios to cut a 45-inch single titled 'QPR The Greatest', which featured Mark on lead vocals. "I always enjoyed a good sing-song on the team coach to and from away matches and would lead the singing," he explains, "although my voice didn't really come across that well on the record. We sold about two or three thousand copies and all the money raised went to the players' pool."

Record-makers in every sense.

Holloway unhappy

NOT for the first time this season Queens Park Rangers manager Ian Holloway was left disgruntled by the officials after another defeat.

Although Kazenga LuLuwa opened the scoring on 36 minutes with an audacious back-heeler in-form Preston on Saturday, goals by Aiden McGeady and Jordan Hugill gave the hosts a 2-1 victory.

To add insult to injury, R's Luke Freeman was shown a second yellow card 12 minutes from the end for an alleged stamp on Tommy Spurr's calf, having earlier been booked for a cynical tug to halt McGeady in his tracks.

Holloway said: "It's a tough one to take. All you want is the rub of the green and yet again we didn't get it. Just like we didn't at Blackburn a few weeks ago, too.

"We should have had two penalties on Matt Smith in the first-half – they're very clear."

"Then in the second-half, it was all about that second goal when there's a clear foul on 'Bids' (Jake Bidwell)."

"The red card – I can't believe that decision. Watch it again. It's never a deliberate stamp. Luke isn't that kind of player. And if it is a stamp, like the fourth official told the referee it was, then why isn't it a straight red? Now we can't even appeal it!"

Holloway added: "It was all about who got that second goal. I'm bitterly disappointed with the result, because there really wasn't much in it."

"We caused our own problems after we went down to 10 men but before that it was end-to-end and could've gone either way."

Ahead of Saturday's home game against Cardiff City, now managed by ex-QPR boss Neil Warnock, and Barnsley's visit to W12 next Tuesday, Holloway added: "We've still got a lot to do as a group. But they're an honest bunch and give me everything every day they come to work, and that's something that fills me with positivity."

Cesc loves London

FROM BACK PAGE

Does the fact that all three Chelsea goal scorers – after Cesc put them ahead on 19 minutes, Pedro and Diego Costa sealed victory in the second-half – were Spanish make it easier to manage the side? Again, Conte is cute in his answer but also up for a laugh.

"No, I don't think that," he starts seriously. "I think that I train every single player to play our idea of football. When it happens that sometimes one player goes into the team, the starting 11, he must do what I want, he must know our idea of football. But then he's ready to enjoy the moment."

"We must be precise," he laughed. "Diego Costa is Brazilian, not Spanish, and he made this choice. But he is a Brazilian guy playing with Spain. Last week, we played a tournament in training with different nationalities and Spain won. But Costa played with Brazil – he did not win!"

Chelsea hope to stretch their lead at the top when they visit West Ham next Monday (8.00pm).

Under-18s win

JODY Morris' Under-18s finished off their regional section of the U18 Premier League by beating West Ham United 3-0 on Saturday.

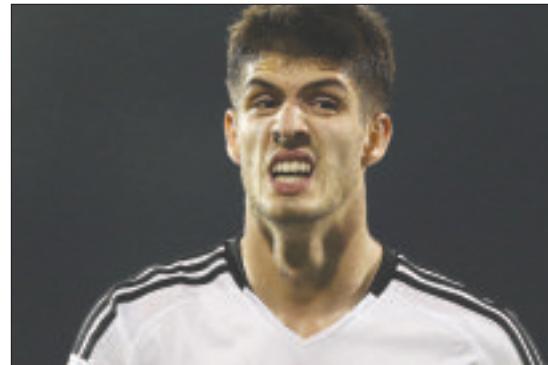
A penalty from Luke McCormick and further strikes from Tariq Uwakwe and Cole Da Silva were more than enough to see off the east Londoners.

The win takes their unbeaten run to 22 matches ahead of the seven-game elite play-off round that begins next month.

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Lucas Piazon underwent surgery on the broken jaw suffered in Saturday's draw at Cardiff

Picture: Rob Newell

Piazon setback



FULHAM will continue their promotion bid without creative attacking midfielder Lucas Piazon.

The 23-year-old Brazilian, on loan from Chelsea, suffered a broken jaw in Saturday's 2-2 draw at Cardiff City.

He underwent surgery on Saturday evening and is expected to be sidelined for at least the next two months.

"This is the worst news for us, he has broken his jaw," confirmed Fulham head coach Slaviša Jokanović, who last week signed a contract extension to 2019.

Piazon hurt himself as he fouled Bluebirds' winger Kadeem Harris and was booked before being replaced in the 25th minute.

Although not an automatic selection, Piazon has scored six times in 24 games this season, including Fulham's first in last Wednesday's comfortable 2-0 victory at Bristol City.

Stefan Johansen and substitute Neeskens Kebano, who replaced Piazon, scored Whites' goals in Cardiff, where a thrilling draw saw the West Londoners edge closer to the Championship play-off places. They are now seventh, five points adrift of sixth-placed Sheffield Wednesday but with a game in hand on the Owls.

Although frustrated that his side were denied a fourth consecutive league victory, a feat they last achieved under Jean Tigana in December 2000, Jokanović admitted that a draw was a fair result.

"We are disappointed because we arrived with desire and a plan to win the game," he said. "We tried to use our weapons, Cardiff used a different style and created many chances. We created many chances too. Cardiff are the best Championship team in 2017, so we didn't expect anything to be easy."

"England gave me a lot in my life, in my career," he said. "I identify with the English way of life, the education, everything. My daughter was born here, my wife is from here. Of course I'm Spanish, I'm Catalan, I'm from Barcelona but I have really adapted here."

"I like many things here – the education of the people, the lifestyle. I really love London, how everyone behaves. Since day one everyone has treated me like a son. People helped me grow up. I came here like a boy at 16 and I left (Arsenal) for Barcelona as a man. Now I'm back and I will always be grateful to England, London, Arsenal and Chelsea – everyone."

"So no joining the China exodus then, like former Blues Oscar and Mikel?"

"China? I'm 29," was his simple and telling response.

So a move abroad is not on the cards just yet?

Fabregas explains his situation as clearly as it's going to get.

"No, not really," when asked if Italy might be a more likely destination.

"What keeps me going is that I feel really good, I feel in great condition to play football for a very long time. I know that in my legs and in my mind that I have played many more games, for someone of 29, than I'm supposed to. But I feel young in my mind. It's all in the mind. I feel fresh and now under Antonio Conte, I'm learning new things, new situations, new manners, a new football philosophy, which makes it

"Don't get me wrong, I want to play every match, every minute, like all players do. But sometimes you have to fight for it. Sometimes the easy way is to escape, to say, 'I don't play, get upset, say you want to leave, to create a drama'. In my mind I decided, 'no, I want to challenge myself'. Not everything comes easy in life, you have to fight sometimes against situations that you're not used

"Usually I don't like when I have this type of conversation. But in the season I like to have lots of conversation with players. This is the first season I'm knowing these players and they are learning to know me also. And for this it's important to have a good conversation with all the players, to try always to be honest. I prefer to tell always a better truth than a good lie."

Tony McDonald

Cesc loving London



This week at
STAMFORD BRIDGE

By Paul Lagan

CESC Fabregas is going nowhere and is loving it at Stamford Bridge.

The former Arsenal and Barcelona star, 29, was in inspired form on Saturday as his goal and assist dispatched a gutsy Swansea City to keep Blues firmly at the top of the Premier League.

Fabregas has had to bide his time this season – under Antonio Conte he has often been kept warming the bench and this has fuelled genuine speculation that his footballing future might lie beyond SW6.

But he has poured scorn on the suggestion and opened his heart about his football and general contentment.

He also played his 300th Premier League game at the weekend, a landmark that came as a surprise for him.

"I found out on Friday and it's fantastic," he said. "I started 13 years ago and I didn't think I would reach this number. I spent many days working for these numbers to happen and when they do I feel humble and proud."

There are five Spanish players in the Chelsea squad, so does he feel Spanish or English?

"England gave me a lot in my life, in my career," he said. "I identify with the English way of life, the education, everything. My daughter was born here, my wife is from here. Of course I'm Spanish, I'm Catalan, I'm from Barcelona but I have really adapted here."

Fabregas, who was recalled to the side in place of Nemanja Matic, continued: "I have already made a statement that there is no truth that I want to leave Chelsea. I want to stay. I can understand that there is doubt."

"I know that as a player I like to play with the ball and on the defensive side I'm not like that. But it shows that I have adapted very well to Conte's philosophy and what he wants. Hopefully I can learn more to play even more."

"We all have to go in the same direction. Experience has given me this maturity because at the beginning of my career, if I didn't play, it'd be a case of don't speak to me because I was really upset. Now, with time and age, it's changed. Experience helps you to understand the most important thing is the team."

"Don't get me wrong, I want to play every match, every minute, like all players do. But sometimes you have to fight for it. Sometimes the easy way is to escape, to say, 'I don't play, get upset, say you want to leave, to create a drama'. In my mind I decided, 'no, I want to challenge myself'. Not everything comes easy in life, you have to fight sometimes against situations that you're not used



N'Golo Kante wins this midfield battle with West Ham's Cheikhou Kouyate. The teams meet at the London Stadium next Monday

Picture: Rob Newell

even more entertaining.

"Maybe I didn't play as much but in training I'm learning. Sometimes when you have played a long time and won a lot, you think, 'ah, I've done everything and know it all'. But then you realise in football you never know everything. I'm in a good moment, a good situation. Hopefully I have reversed the situation a little from the beginning of the season to now. Hopefully I can keep playing like that to keep my place."

Fabregas has said he would want to play in the USA at some point.

"Every time I plan something, it never goes the way I thought," he said.

"Now, it's just Chelsea. Until the day

Chelsea tell me, 'we don't need you, we don't want you anymore'. That happens to everyone and then you have to move on. But for now I just want to go day by day and then when my brain says I can't do it anymore or something like that, then I will move, probably away from Europe."

"When you have been at the top at Arsenal, Barcelona, Chelsea, Spain, and been so successful, I don't know where's next. I don't want to plan things. When I feel like I cannot be in a top club anymore, then maybe it's the right time to go. For now, it's all about Chelsea and performing here."

I'm only 29. I know I have played a long time, but I'm still only 29. "I feel really mature. In my personal life, generally on the pitch, I feel in a good moment. I can't say it's the best or not because I have had other moments, especially at Arsenal where I was young and sometimes I felt invincible – you feel like you can do anything. But with the maturity and experience I'm playing with now, it tells me something about myself."

Conte would have loved every word uttered by Fabregas, as it perfectly encapsulates his desire and footballing philosophy that with everyone pulling in the same direction, albeit his – then

"Usually I don't like when I have this type of conversation. But in the season I like to have lots of conversation with players. This is the first season I'm knowing these players and they are learning to know me also. And for this it's important to have a good conversation with all the players, to try always to be honest. I prefer to tell always a better truth than a good lie."

everything can be achieved.

Blues' 3-1 win against Swansea, their 10th straight Premier League victory at home, keeps them 10 points clear of second place Spurs and Stamford Bridge is once again a footballing fortress.

Conte said: "These are great achievements for the team, players and also for me. It's important for us to continue this way. It means you are doing very well and probably you stay on top of the table."

The head coach had praise for Fabregas. "He showed a great professional attitude," he said.

"I'm pleased to have these opportunities to work with these types of player. We are talking about champions, not medium players, but top players. When you have, in your squad, this type of player that you put in the team and he does not think of himself, but the team, it's great."

"Another example is Willian. Pedro is playing but Willian's behaviour is always the same and when you have this type of player, you must go in your house to sleep."

Did Conte say to Fabregas he would play a more significant role as the season progressed?

"Yeah," said the 47-year-old Italian. "But when one player wants to have an explanation about my choices, my door is always open and the reply is always the same: 'I want to win and I try always, in every game to make the best decision'."

"Against Swansea I decided to start with Cesc but don't forget Nemanja Matic is playing a fantastic championship, N'Golo Kante the same – in this position. We must continue in this way. Our target is more important than a single player."

"I played Cesc because Swansea play very, very compact. Probably in this game it was difficult to find the space to play between the lines. I repeat I made this decision, I'm very happy, for Cesc, but also Nemanja. When I called him to play off the bench, he played really well. N'Golo is playing fantastic. This is why we are top of the league – all my players are playing very, very well. For me, it's always difficult to make these decisions. But I have to do this. Sometimes I make a mistake but I try to do the best for the team, because I want to win."

Have many players ventured through his door to ask why they're not playing? But Conte is cute and sidesteps the question.

"Usually I don't like when I have this type of conversation. But in the season I like to have lots of conversation with players. This is the first season I'm knowing these players and they are learning to know me also. And for this it's important to have a good conversation with all the players, to try always to be honest. I prefer to tell always a better truth than a good lie."

TURN TO PAGE 27